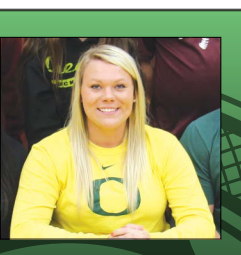
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Muscogee Nation News

Official publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and a production of Mvskoke Media

Mvskoke fiddle dance held at MCN Council House

Jan. 1, 2014
Vol. 44, Issue 1
"Rvfo Cuse"
Winter's Younger Brother

Younger generation exposed to dormant tradition

Amanda Rutland/*Media Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Museum, Cultural Center and Archives held a fiddle dance Nov. 23 at the MCN Council House in Okmulgee. Members of surrounding communities attended the event, which included a catered dinner, Christmas light show and dancing.

Fiddle dance was a tradition that started during the pre-removal period in the Mvskoke ancestral homelands. With the influence of European contact, primarily with the Irish and Scottish, the Muscogee (Creek) people began to adopt some European cultural practices including fiddle dance.

The Muscogee people held fiddle dances as social events, which took place primarily when the stompdance season ended.

The only musicians needed were a fiddler and someone to play sticks to provide percussion. Playing sticks consists of tapping drumsticks on a wooden chair to create a rhythm.

The heyday of fiddle dance was from the 1880s-1950s. Being a social gathering, the dance wasn't just limited to the winter months.

"These fiddle dances were done for birthdays, holidays; someone has a new house they would come in and way before they bring any furniture in; they would clear it out and have a fiddle dance there," Justin Giles, Assistant Director and Curator of the MCN MCCA said.

The idea of reviving the fiddle dance came from Muscogee (Creek) elders Craig Womack and Sam Proctor. Womack is a fiddle player and Tallahassee Ceremonial Ground member and Proctor is a tribal member with an interest in keeping traditions alive.

Together they approached Giles with memories of fiddle dances, wanting to see the dance experienced by younger tribal members.

Fiddle - 3



MNN/Amanda Rutland

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Museum, Cultural Center and Archives held a fiddle dance Nov. 23 at the MCN Council House in Okmulgee, Okla. Activities included dinner, dancing and sharing memories of past fiddle dances.

Tulsa business hosts Christmas celebration for Ryal students

MCN participates in holiday event for youth

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

TULSA, Okla. — Students and faculty from Ryal Public Schools took a trip to Tulsa Dec. 17 for the annual Ryal School Christmas Party hosted by the Home Builders Association of Greater Tulsa.

Volunteers from HBA went with the children to Wal-Mart and each student received $50 to get Christmas presents for themselves and their families.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger met up and enjoyed the activities with the students at the HBA.

"Today was an amazing and neat event," Tiger said. "I have been to about three of these events and each time is bigger and better and I really enjoy myself."

What started out 46 years ago as a mustard seed with HBA collecting gifts for the schools has grown into a full Christmas celebration.

"We had some people who had a connection with Ryal schools," former HBA President Howard Kelsey said. "We have went from collecting gifts to passing out bicycles to the students and into now what we are doing today with the children. We have had several principal chiefs here at these events and like the children; their faces light up seeing them happy."

Along with the gifts from Wal-Mart, the students were treated to a pizza party, magic show and visit from Santa Claus.

First grade teacher Joni Howk talked about the day's event. Howk has been at Ryal Public Schools for 28 years and has attended at all these events.

Ryal - 2

Emergency Management deals with inclement weather

Tribal officials, employees make winter weather calls

Kyla McKown/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Throughout winter in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation jurisdiction, MCN Emergency Management and other services are prepared and on call to assist citizens in need.

If and when winter weather hits, Emergency Management collaborates with the MCN Lighthorse Police Department to help decide whether to close the MCN Tribal Complex based on conditions.

Emergency Management Supervisor James Nichols said he takes to the roads to check out the conditions and then relays his findings to MCN Executive Director Jerry Wilson who decides whether to close the complex. MCN Principal Chief George Tiger then approves that decision.

After the decision is made and approved, Nichols is in charge of sending out the closure information via the Mass Notification System.

Although the complex and departments may be closed, some services are still available. MCN Emergency Management, Lighthorse and Senior Services have employees on call in case of emergencies or citizens in need.

These emergencies may include a power outage across parts of the MCN jurisdiction, which would permit a local community center to open up as a shelter.

Each community center has access to 11 generators that have been strategically placed for access. These centers are also equipped with Points of Distribution or PODs, with preparedness supplies, cots and blankets.

MCN Emergency Management also works with local Red Cross centers.

"Why go to a Creek Nation shelter when you can go across the street to a Red Cross one?" Phil Booker, MCN Risk Management Manager said. "And that works vice versa. We won't turn anyone down as much as we can without turning away our people."

Aside from being in contact with local Red Cross, MCN has an advantage as far as knowledge of the depth of the storm.

"Channel Six and Eight have their people out there but they're not contacting with county sheriffs and dispatchers," Booker said. "We have four-wheel drive vehicles; we

Weather - 3



MNN/Amanda Rutland

Many citizens in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation jurisdiction experienced winter weather the first part of December 2013. MCN Emergency Management monitors extreme weather conditions throughout the year.

MvskokeMedia

MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

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Local, state businesses donate to MCN Angel Tree



Mvskoke Media/Tyler Roberds
The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Children and Family Services Administration holds the 15th annual Angel Tree charity.

MCN CASA hosts Christmas charity

Kyla McKown/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — For the past 15 Christmases, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Children and Family Services Administration has hosted an Angel Tree event for the Nation's underprivileged children.

This year, more than 120 angels were adopted. The angels represent children who maybe underprivileged or affected by abuse or neglect and receive assistance from CASA programs including: MCN Child Welfare, Promoting Safe and Stable Families and Family Violence Prevention.

Aside from the 120 angels, local and state businesses and organizations have also helped give a Christmas to Muscogee (Creek) children. Okmulgee Chiropractic Clinic's James Ziegler donated about $1,300 and the Oklahoma Bar Association donated more than $1,000.

"These companies have helped provide such a great gift to our children and our program," Jessica Randleman, Children and Family Services Child Treatment Worker, said. "This helps our Creek children and makes sure these kids who may not have had a Christmas will have something special to open this year."

Ziegler said he believes in giving back.

"I think more people should give back to people who give to them," Ziegler said. "I've been a chiropractor in Okmulgee for 35 years. In that time, I've taken care of a lot of people; a lot of patients are employees at Creek Nation."

A couple of those employees work for Children and Family Services.

"I give a certain amount of money for each person from Creek Nation that I treat," Ziegler said. "I just figure it out in my head. Every month I think I've sent somewhere between $150 to $200 to them… I feel good about that and something I'm going to keep on doing."

Because of donors like Ziegler, CASA has had a great turnout this year.

"We're extremely blessed this year in that all the angels were taken as you can tell," Beky Baker, Children and Family Services Child Treatment Worker, said. "This is just something that is there for these children, children of different circumstances."

Donations are welcome throughout the year for the Angel Tree.

For more information about the Angel Tree or other CASA programs, call: 918-732-7869 or toll free at: 1-800-482-1979.

RYAL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



MNN/Darren DeLaune
Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Speaker Sam Alexander, MCN Principal Chief George Tiger and First Lady Frances Tiger meet and shook hands Dec. 17 with students from Ryal Public Schools at the Ryal School Christmas Party held at the Home Business Association of Greater Tulsa offices.

"Excitement is what has happened here today for the children," Howk said. "They have been looking forward to this for a few weeks."

First year teacher Mary Stephens was overjoyed at what HBA does for the Ryal students. She wanted to express how she felt to HBA when she saw the kids with their gifts.

"We are all very appreciative, the students and faculty," Stephens said. "The children love Christmas and what it means. The HBA are amazing people and we want to thank them for all that they do for us every year."

The students rode back to their schools in the MCN Charter Bus since their own bus broke down during the trip. Tiger made arrangements for the bus to come pick them up and return them to their schools.

Strategic session held to plan Nation's future



MNN/Chelsie Rich
Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger speaks Dec. 3 during the opening session of the Strategic Planning Conference held at the Northeastern State University Broken Arrow, Okla., campus.

Tribal entities gather to further MCN services

Chelsie Rich/*Project Specialist*

BROKEN ARROW, Okla. — The 2013 Muscogee (Creek) Nation Strategic Planning Conference was held Dec. 3-4 at the Northeastern State University Broken Arrow campus.

The conference featured MCN department managers and directors, MCN National Council representatives and community members along with MCN Principal Chief George Tiger and members of his cabinet.

The conference consisted of speakers, a total group exercise and small group exercises that all were designed to help further the success of the Nation.

The small group exercises were divided between those departments that had similar interest so they could interact with each other and voice their ideas.

The total group exercises consisted of the small groups reporting the information they gathered back to the entire group.

MCN Executive Director, Jerry Wilson coordinated the two-day conference.

"Strategic Planning is about envisioning a new future for the tribe," said Wilson.

The first day of the conference participants were asked to discuss the new strengths of the tribe, possible weaknesses the Nation may have as well as future opportunities.

Threats to MCN were also discussed such as possible government budget cuts.

"It gives them the opportunity to sit around the table to brainstorm to look at a new way of doing things. Hopefully this human capital will help advance the tribe into a new stage," Wilson said.

The second day, they were asked to generate goals, objectives, strategies and success indicators. At the end of each day, the groups were asked to report back with top priorities and goals for the Nation.

Tiger hopes that this strategic planning conference turns out like the previous one.

"It was really a solid blueprint for us to be able to make decisions on programs and improving and expanding our programs and services that we provide to our citizens," Tiger said.

"It also gives us a chance for us to have some good networking with elected officials, employees and tribal citizens."

This was the second Strategic Planning Conference for MCN.

"I would prefer to have one once per year but we currently are sponsoring one every two years," Wilson said.

After the conference, a report is developed with the information gathered. The Supplement to the Strategic Plan 2014-2015 will be available by February.

Copies of this report will be distributed to elected officials, community members and in department offices. The report will also be made available on the MCN website: www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov.

4 Love of the Game donates to RIP Drive

MCN RIP/*Media Release*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — 4 Love of the Game founders Victor Bear and David Pascale donated 27 $10 Wal-Mart gift cards to go towards the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Reintegration Program Fifth annual Toy Drive.

"4 Love of the Game" is a non-profit organization that was established in 2005. Through athletics, it's purpose is to create opportunities and avenues for Native American youth, which combat the rash of suicides, depression, juvenile diabetes, school dropouts and drug/alcohol abuse that have become an epidemic among Native American communities throughout the U.S.

Before their most recent basketball tournament, Victor and David asked that each team donate a $10 gift card. It was not required, but many gave. Teams from all over the U.S. traveled, played and donated!

We know that the founders of "4 Love of the Game" had a choice in which program they donated these gift cards, so RIP thanks them for their support.

Santa gave these gift cards and the donated toys Dec. 17. We have many children whose parents are either incarcerated or who are in the program and trying to get back on their feet with a fresh start in life. The need is great. If you have any questions please call: 918-652-2676.

- Mvto!

Youth Wellness teaches life skills through activities



MNN/Darren DeLaune
Muscogee (Creek) Nation Prevention Counselor, Tricia Alexander leads a team building execise at Kiefer Elementary during the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Youth Wellness After School Program.

MCN department aims to make a difference

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Youth Wellness Program houses a grant program that works to promote health and awareness among tribal youth.

The Youth Wellness After School Prevention Program targets fifth grade students throughout selected public schools in the MCN jurisdiction.

The tribally funded program, which began in 2006, teaches students social and communication skills with fun activities that they can relate to.

"We have a lot of activities and games that help out the students," Youth Wellness Coordinator Thomasine Fife said. "All of our activities are hands on for the kids, so afterwards they can debrief it and use it in a real life example."

The department has been asked why the after school program is only offered for fifth graders. Research has shown that this age group is best for prevention education.

"Their minds are still open to hearing your message," Fife said. "They will be able to remember and absorb what you are telling them. So we want to tell them what is good and bad for them; so if ever the wrong element comes around; they will be able to know what is right and wrong."

The program uses these activities to help children be more open and involved and teach leadership skills students might be lacking.

"There might be a shy kid who has great leadership skills but are too quiet to say anything," Fife said. "With these activities they have to talk and help make decisions in order for everyone to succeed."

Youth Wellness Prevention Counselor, Tricia Alexander talked about what how these activities help the children.

"The kids have to talk and listen to each other with all the games that we have," Alexander said. "When they cooperate, they are using the skills that they have learned, not only for the games, but for their everyday activities."

The program also offers activities on selected weekends where they gather the children for a day of fun. One of the areas they visit is the rope course located in Eufaula, Okla.

"This gives all the kids the opportunity to meet other kids and to socialize and make new friends," Fife said.

Youth Wellness wants all children involved to get out of their shell and learn skills to prepare them for the future.

"Not everyone is a sports player and not everyone is an athlete," Alexander said. "We want to be able to give everyone that goes through us the skills with our games that we play. Athlete or not, they have skills in leadership, thinking and cooperation. We want those skills to excel."

For more information on the MCN Youth Wellness Program contact: 918-758-1930.

'Broadway Rox' brings a taste of NYC to Tulsa



MNN/Amanda Rutland
Vocalists perform music from Broadway musicals Dec. 14 in 'Broadway Rox,' a concert series hosted by River Spirit Event Center.

Performance leaves crowd 'Footloose'

Jessica McBride/*MNN Reporter*

TULSA, Okla. — The River Spirit Event Center in Tulsa hosted the concert series, 'Broadway Rox,' Dec. 14., which featured a medley of popular Broadway musicals including 'Wicked' and 'Rent.'

Male and female vocalists performed song renditions with the accompaniment of musicians who played: guitar, piano, percussion and various wind instruments. Though the music comes from theatrical performances, the presentation is similar to that of a concert since the performers leave out some of the acting to focus more on vocals.

"Even though we're doing more of a concert style with this show, there are still dramatic pieces and the dialogue and lyrics of the song are drawn towards that.

"So I think people can still get really drawn into some of the songs and get emotionally involved," vocalist Jason Wooten said.

The music of 'Broadway Rox' lends itself to more of a rock 'n' roll or pop style production.

"We take all those songs and then we put our own arrangements on them…" Wooten said. "Usually we try to rock them up a little bit; like we even do a little 'Phantom of the Opera' but it has a little bit more rock."

The audience enjoyed a variety of music written by popular bands such as: The Beatles, Green Day and Queen as well as notable Broadway sensations like Andrew Lloyd Webber.

Wooten said that the show has something for everyone, from theatergoers to music lovers in general.

"I think everybody finds their own little things. A lot of the younger people certainly identify with 'Rent,' " Wooten said. "And then all of a sudden we'll start doing stuff from 'Hair' and 'Jesus Christ Superstar' and the older crowd really gets into that; especially the Christian community."

Wooten embraced theater in high school and worked his way in to several Broadway performances including 'The Rocky Horror Show' and toured with the Trans-Siberian Orchestra.

One of Wooten's favorite parts of the show is a musical selection he performs that is staged in a more intimate setting.

"I do a really great version of 'Pinball Wizard,' which is from Who's 'Tommy'… We decided to make it into a little bit of a waltz sound and it's just me and a guitar and a bass," Wooten said.

'Broadway Rox' has toured throughout the U.S. and made several stops in China.

FIDDLE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"We need to do something as Muscogee Nation to really highlight, again, another part of our culture that people need to know and realize and experience," Giles said.

The Council House was chosen for the event given its rich history and significance to Muscogee (Creek) people.

The historic site will soon be undergoing an 18 month renovation.

John Beaver, Director and Curator of MCN MCCA, said it was in the museum department's interest to keep holding events in and around the building to keep it accessible to citizens.

"Just like it was then and as it is now, it belonged to the Creek Nation. So we want to have events like this while we look at developing it as a historic site," Beaver said.

The next fiddle dance is tentatively scheduled for Jan. 10.

WEATHER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

have a fleet of them that do day-to-day jobs we have access to."

The MCN is also prepared when it comes to other types of emergencies. The tribe has had an Emergency Operation Plan, EOP, which was set in place eight years ago.

MCN Lighthorse Chief Richard Fixico gave a few tips in case of an ice or winter storm for citizens.

• Always have blankets, a flashlight and water stowed away in your vehicle.

• Always carry a cell phone with you.

• Get gas before your car is close to empty in case of getting stuck.

In the situation of winter weather or other natural disasters, citizens may call the disaster hotline at: 918-732-7911.

This hotline will inform callers of any open community shelters or other information pertinent to the weather and tribal complex closings. Information is also posted on the tribal website at: www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov.



Alexander hosts third Native American Christmas market



MNN/Amanda Rutland

Vendors display their wares at the Third annual Native American Christmas Market Dec. 14 at the Elk's Lodge in Sapulpa, Okla. More than 25 vendors participated in the event.

Customers support Native business during holiday season

Amanda Rutland/*Media Specialist*

SAPULPA, Okla. — Shoppers braved the cool temperatures Dec. 14 for the Third annual Native American Christmas Market at the Elk's Lodge in Sapulpa. The market was started by Muscogee (Creek) citizen Tricia Alexander, owner of Autumn Star Catering, as a way to earn some additional income during the holiday season.

The NACM brings entertainment, food concessions and handpicked Native vendors from across the state. Alexander said she makes it a point to know all of her vendors.

"I am really happy with all of my vendors. They are all really nice and talented and put a lot into it this year," Alexander said.

The featured artist was Michel Laudermilk. Entertainment included Brian Frejo and Native Sisters with Voices.

Laudermilk is a Muscogee (Creek) citizen and member of Big Cussetah Tribal Town. This was his first year to participate in NACM. He has been traveling throughout the U.S. selling his artwork. Laudermilk said it feels good to be back in the MCN jurisdiction.

"It's the support that we all have for each other, Indian Country period..." Laudermilk said. "And that's what I am grateful for when I can come home and be embraced no matter how long I have been gone."

Singing duo Native Sisters with Voices is comprised of Nancy Mason and Lynnelle Roberts. Mason is Alexander's cousin and sang professionally in college. They preformed three songs during the event.

Mason said she believes Alexander's art market is enriched by the food concessions.

"She is just very well known with her catering, so that was another thing for people to be connected to," Mason said. "That food piece that we love so much, and that is an art in and of itself."

Alexander said the event was the biggest NACM yet.

"We had a waiting list of about 19 artists…but due to space I wasn't able to accommodate that," Alexander said.

Next year, Alexander plans to expand having more vendors and entertainment at a larger venue.

Muscogee (Creek) citizen signs with Oregon Ducks



MNN/Darren DeLaune

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Cheyene Powell, with her family and coaches, signs a letter of intent to play softball for the University of Oregon Ducks softball team next season.

Softball standout taking talent to Oregon

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

BLANCHARD, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Cheyene Powell, 18, along with family members, high school softball coaches and classmates, signed a letter of intent Nov. 15, to attend school and play softball at the University of Oregon.

Powell will be suiting up in yellow and green next season when she reports for duty as a pitcher for the UO Ducks softball team.

Powell chose this Pac-12 Conference institution because of its distinguished reputation for softball.

"It is pretty far," Powell said. "They have a very well-respected softball team. I want to play with the best and they are right up there at the top."

Powell drew interest from other schools such as the University of North Texas, Mississippi State and Florida State but Oregon offered something special when she went there to visit.

"It wasn't only the softball team that helped me with my decision," Powell said. "Everybody there makes you feel at home. They make you feel welcome and like you belong there."

Powell, a transfer from Tuttle High School, helped guide her high school team to the state semi-finals during the softball season. Powell batted over .400 during her season. What makes it more remarkable is that she only played half a season.

"It was a great season," Powell said. "No one thought we would make it that far so we surprised a lot of people."

Softball coach for Blanchard High School Larry Weaver talks about the impact Powell has made and how much she will be missed.

"It is not very often you get to coach a Division I softball player," Weaver said. "She should be going there and making an immediate impact as a player. It is going to be very hard to replace her not only for the team but also as a student here. She will be missed."

Powell knows there is a big difference between high school and college softball but she is up for the challenge. She wants to be able to help as soon as she gets to Eugene, Ore.

"I want to be the pitcher who will throw hard and be depended on for the end of the game situations," Powell said. "I want the coaches to have their trust in me knowing I am going to play my best for them. I would love to be able to start my freshman year so that is what I want."

Powell is the daughter of Bryant and Michelle Powell. She is of the Alligator Clan and Weogufkee Tribal Town.

Tribal coalition works to increase Native children's wellness



MNN/Kyla McKown

Youth Programs Coordinator Erin Saltsman with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program participates in an interactive game Dec. 17 to introduce attendees of an MCN Tribal Child and Youth Coalition meeting.

MCN entities meet monthly to collaborate on goals

Kyla McKown/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health Behavioral Health Program has launched a Tribal Child and Youth Coalition, known as TCYC.

The coalition mission statement is, "To increase child wellness, promote responsible parenting and ensure that children are thriving in safe, supportive and healthy environments."

TCYC is supported by federal grants, including Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Project LAUNCH. Project LAUNCH, which stands for Linking Actions for Unmet Needs in Children's Health, goes toward the wellness of children.

Another one of the grants used is the Children Mental Health Initiative, which co-leads the MCN TCYC meetings each month.

Erica Ridgley, Young Child Wellness Partner with MCN DOH, said the idea of TCYC has been around for a couple of years but is just now really starting to take off.

Members of different departments and programs at and involved with the Nation attend the meetings including: Indian Health Services, MCN Social Services, Community Outreach and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families.

"We have a lot of different programs doing great things just in different departments and sometimes there's lack of communication," Ridgley said. "Some programs get more grants and they can offer even more."

Ridgley said this past meeting was a strategic planning-type meeting to set out goals and objectives and that after a follow-up meeting, she hopes to form subcommittees within the coalition to tackle these goals and objectives.

TCYC aims to focus on outreach to the Muscogee (Creek) children and their families.

"I really think it takes a lot of fun activities that draw them in and provide food or prizes," Ridgley said. "…Especially kids not using our health systems. That is one of our goals."

The coalition plans to reach out by planning events to bring children and families in, such as health fairs and the MCN Spring Celebration held during spring break.

"It's a time for family and kids to get together during spring break and have some fun," Ridgley said. "Usually we'll have a guest speaker may-be talk about bullying, tobacco prevention or drug and alcohol prevention."

Events such as the Spring Celebration will also be equipped with developmental screenings and possibly the DOH Mobile Flu Clinic.

"For Project LAUNCH, we can offer developmental screenings for kids to make sure they're on track to where they need to be; Especially kids not using our health systems."

— Erica Ridgley, Young Child Wellness Partner- Project LAUNCH

"For Project LAUNCH, we can offer developmental screenings for kids to make sure they're on track to where they need to be," Ridgley said. "Especially kids not using our health systems. That's one of our goals we have, as far as Launch that could be integrated into TCYC."

Ridgley said Project LAUNCH is a big tool in the TCYC program. The grant for LAUNCH is in the first of five years so the coalition is in the early stages here at the Nation.

The coalition is open to any Native American children. According to Ridgley, other tribes are welcome to attend the meetings.

"They may have something else going on within their tribe that is similar," Ridgley said. "It's always nice to collaborate and see what they've tried and had success doing."

Anyone is welcome to join in on the coalition. Meetings are held monthly at the MCN Physical Rehabilitation Center in the Day Room. The next meeting will be Jan. 28, 2014. Attendees may RSVP to erica.ridgley@creekhealth.org or call: 918-224-9307.



Fridays in January!
NOON - 4:00PM

Diamond Rewards Free Play
Once a Diamond Club member has earned 5 points they will be eligible for a $5 Free Play on the Green Machine. Once eligible(earn 5 points), they will proceed to the player's club booth for the 'Creen Machine Free Play ticket.'

Limit of one (1) free spin per person.
Each Player wil keep all prizes won.



NOON - MIDNIGHT
$10 Diamond Play

Electronic Ticket Drawings
Jan. 1st - Jan 25th: Diamond Club players earn one (1) electronic drawing ticket with every $50 coin in.
Jan. 24th and 25th: At NOON, One (1) electronic ticket drawing every 15 minutes to spin a prize wheel. Prizes include $100 Free Play, $250 Cash, and Buck Wild Qualifiers.

Buck Wild Qualifier Drawings
At 8:00PM, Buck Wild Qualifiers will return to select an envelope. Prizes include (21) $500, (15) $1,000, (2) $2,500, (1) $5,000, (1) $10,000

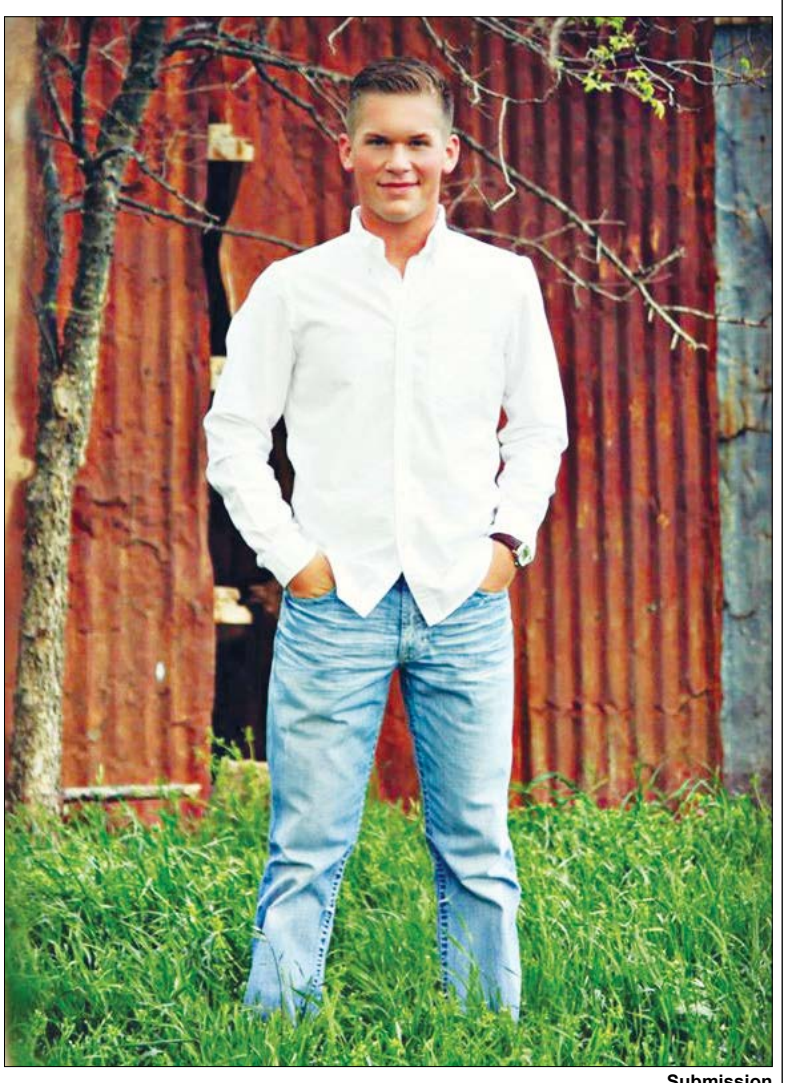
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Muscogee (Creek) FFA participant recognized on national level



Submission

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Ridge Howell represents the Checotah Future Farmers of America program at the White House in Washington, D.C.

Projects teach more than agriculture

Jessica McBride/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Growing up, Muscogee (Creek) citizen Ridge Howell fell into the family tradition of participation in 4-H. Being a member of the club helped give him a base for learning not just about agriculture but about life.

"I think I probably learned more about life lessons through the process than anything else," Howell said. "I think I learned a lot about what I should look for in life."

Howell began in the 4-H program at a young age with projects involving cattle and speech. Continuing on with the tradition, he joined Future Farmers of America, where he continued to grow in a world of agriculture, leadership and service.

"I would say once I got to be about the eighth grade I started seeing a lot of what FFA could do for you," Howell said. "I had several role models in FFA… it was about a lot more than just agriculture."

Through the FFA program, Howell was a part of various community service projects including a lawn-mowing program for senior citizens and those in need. Howell's favorite project was the community garden.

Howell said that the projects really helped create a relationship between the older generations and his own. In fact, Howell met many senior citizens that he now calls friends.

"It was just kind of a great insight of what people are like." Howell said. "I think it just kind of let us get past the stereotypes and into more of a friendship, because that's really what it ended up being."

Howell was recently featured in the FFA magazine 'New Horizons' for his projects and accomplishments.

Through FFA, Howell was chosen to travel to the National FFA Organization Convention and Expo in Indianapolis for a discussion on Natives and agriculture. Out of the participants in Indianapolis, Howell was one of 10 participants chosen to go to Washington, D.C. for the White House Champions of Change in 2012.

Howell was invited to serve on the Native Voices board by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of Tribal Relations to help lobby for ag programs in Native schools.

Muscogee (Creek) citizen and Checotah Public Schools Ag Teacher Jason McPeak said that because of Howell, the program is now knowledgeable of additional opportunities available through FFA. McPeak commented on the approval of financial assistance for the FFA trip by the MCN National Council.

"We appreciate the financial support of the tribe…" McPeak said. "We hope that they feel they got their money back and then some."

Howell is a Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation Scholarship recipient and is in his first year at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Okla. As an English major, Howell hopes to eventually attend law school.

Howell's parents are Justin and Tricia Howell of Checotah, Okla.

To view the White House Champions of Change conference that Howell attended visit: www.youtube.com/watch?v=-z6esegUJ0o.

"I think I probably learned more about life lessons through the process than anything else. I think I learned a lot about what I should look for in life."

- Muscogee (Creek) student Ridge Howell

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GIC jam brings local musicians together



MNN/Sterling Cosper

(Left to right) Selby Minner, Jack Anquoe Jr., Paul 'Crazy P' Anquoe and Dan 'Oklahoma Slim' Ortiz at the Glenpool Creek Indian Community Center Nov. 26 during one of several blues jam sessions held at the GIC Center.

Glenpool Indian Community gets the blues

Sterling Cosper/*MNN Editor*

GLENPOOL, Okla. — Blues musician Selby Minner tunes up beginner Cherie Haney on bass, while three guitarists play around each other Nov. 26 at the beginning of a blues jam session and workshop at the Glenpool Creek Indian Community Center.

"OK, what key are we doing that in? A, that'll work," Minner said.

Like a good bassist, Minner laid the foundation and the first song of the night came together, 'Johnny B. Goode.'

GIC member and facilitator of the workshop Joy Harjo was introduced to Minner about two years ago.

"She wanted to play the blues," Minner said. "I started giving her a few bass lessons and she decided that she would like me to do a workshop and jam session there."

Harjo recently returned to Oklahoma after leaving years ago to attend the Institute of American Indian Art.

"When I came back, it was important to me to work in the community with art," Harjo said.

Harjo explained why Minner was chosen as the instructor for the GIC jam.

"She is very good at working with people who have played for along time, as well as beginners," Harjo said.

This was demonstrated through her work with beginner bassist Haney who played Nov. 30 during a live show at GIC with the jam session group.

"She held it down," Minner said.

Minner also worked with Kiowa guitarist Paul 'Crazy P' Anquoe who had previously played with his father Jack Anquoe Jr. on the world famous Beale Street blues strip, in Memphis, Tenn.

"What I've learned in all these years is the respect Native Americans have in tradition carries over when they start playing the blues," Minner said. "They take the time to learn the music a little more thoroughly and learn the different patterns and roots of the music."

Harjo emphasized the importance of art in her own life and hopes to continue to share and emphasize this with her community.

"It saved my life and kind of helped give me direction…it is important that art is part of education as well as athletics," Harjo said.

> **"What I've learned in all these years is the respect Native Americans have in tradition carries over when they start playing the blues."**
>
> **—blues musician Selby Minner**

The first round of jam sessions ran from September to October, however Harjo and Minner are looking to start up again in late January or early February 2014.

"I love teaching and helping people make their dreams come true. If I can do that, then I can make my dreams come true," Minner said.

Harjo hopes to start other workshops at GIC involving writing and pottery.

For more information about upcoming GIC events, keep and eye on the 'Muscogee Nation News' community calendar on the last page of each edition.

For more information about Selby Minner and her work in the blues visit her website: www.dcminnerblues.com and Facebook page: www.facebook.com/selby.minner.

Oklahoma Blues Hall of Fame inductees, Selby Minner and her late husband D.C. Minner were also recipients of the Keeping Blues Alive Award for education.

"With all the encouragement and insight I gained from working with a master, that's my job; to try and keep this music alive and move it forward to the younger generation," Minner said.

Minner completed an unpublished book called 'The Band Guide' based on what she learned from her late husband about fronting a musical act.

"He had a grassroots understanding of it that had never been written down. It is an unwritten culture just like your culture," Minner said.

She further tied the blues culture to Native culture.

Thoughts and reflections: Joy Harjo



TULSA, Okla. — It's difficult to know where to start this column. I've started many over these last few months but have been taken by obligations and travel. This Internet and wireless phone age has made our lives more frantic and full of busyness than ever. We are always in touch, and these things "save time." We do not seem to stop.

"Save time" is a strange phrase when you take it out and look at it. What is time and how can you save it, and where? We keep things in memory, but we do that less and less. When is the last time you memorized a song, poem or story, or even, someone's phone number? We give photographs and paper our memories. Our memories consequently sag with disuse. And yet they are dynamic and within memory live our traditions, our ancestors, our fresh ideas and philosophical notions. And I venture to say, even future time. I can see our underworked memories are looking around for something of value to carry. I worry that mine is too full of advertising jingles, worries, past hurts and other useless junk.

Our arts carry memories. And yet arts have begun to lose their place in our culture as repositories of culture, of memory. They are no longer an important part of education and even lose out in after school activities. Our leaders often do not seem convinced of the power of art to define us, to grow us and even take care of us. Yet, where do we look when we want to know who we were in the past, to know where we're going? We look to art, to the design tracks of our material world.

I remember my Aunt Lois Harjo Ball and her efforts on behalf of arts for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, as a working artist, and a steward for the collections at the Creek Council House. She is one of many of her generation, my grandparents' generation who carried of a dream of arts renewal, from those first steps walked on the "Trail of Tears" to Indian Territory. She gave me the understanding that what is intrinsic to the meaning of what it means to be Mvskoke can be found in artistic expression.

When I left the Creek Nation for a high school education at the Institute of American Indian Arts, I found a community of young Native artists who stood at the edge of an American society that was still in upheaval over the Civil Rights Movement. We realized as young Natives becoming artists that we wanted to be free of the shackles of traumatic memory. We realized that a truly indigenous art must be made of the materials of our own tribal histories, cultures, and places we stood on earth. And the arts, like any entity, must flow freely. If you shackle the imagination with racialization, stereotypes, religious rigidity: all the precepts of colonization, it cannot expand, go out and bring back life.

Now I am watching young artists, including children and grandchildren continue to emerge from the restrictions and challenges of cultural damage, as they come up through our Nation.

Like many of my generation, I am watching them for signs, to see which way the pattern or design will develop. I like being in the stream of fresh energy to help urge them on. I have decided to work within the community to assist, with blues jams, writing workshops and other workshops. (There would be no American blues without Mvskoke stompdance music.) The artist Dana Tiger inspires me. She is one of the most active proponents of arts and arts education in the tribe.

We have watched the arts heal what is broken by war, by struggles of the heart and mind. Art has always shown us the way of the healing spirit.

Imagine indigenous arts touching all American lives. A world with no more stereotypes; a world in which to be a Native person means to be creative, whole, and rich with cultural treasure that holds value for everyone. - Joy Harjo Dec. 10, 2013 Tulsa, Okla.

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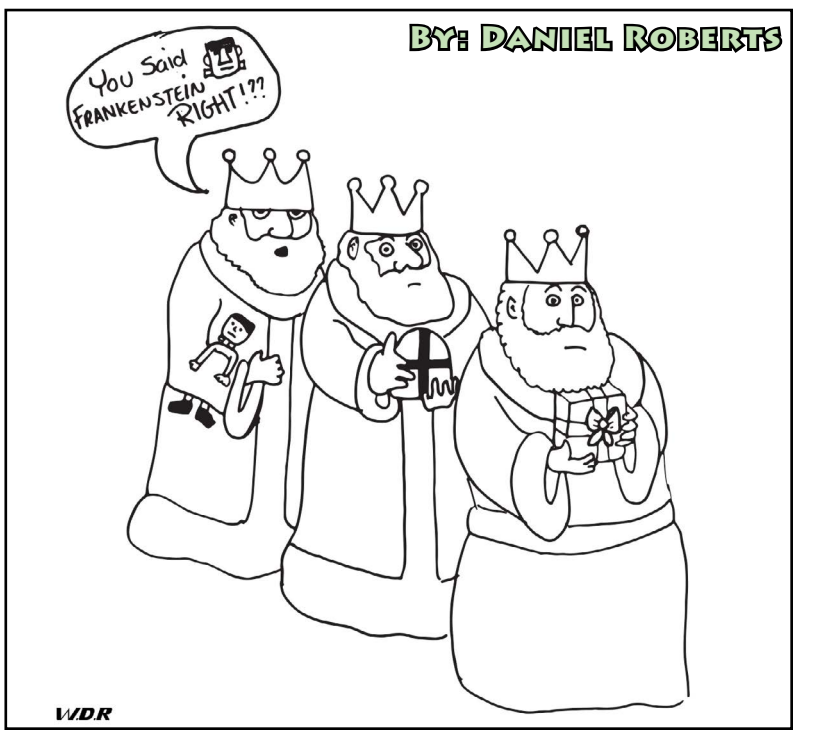
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MCN Community and Tribal Events

A history of Alabama Baptist Church



Helen Barnett with sons, Willie D. and Amos.

Submission previously published in the 'Okemah News Leader' written by:

Willie D. Alford

WICHITA, Kan. — In most tribes of the world there is a storyteller whose purpose is to educate the men, women and children of a time and the generation before them. We want to begin this millennium with a renewed emphasis of achievement through awareness.

My story begins 150 years ago in Indian Territory. We would gather as a family to worship, to lift our spirits and give thanks to God for our survival. I give thanks and credit to my great-grandfather, Rev. Dick Barnett, my great-grandmother, First Lady, Annie Looney Barnett, my grandfather, Chilli Barnett, and my mother, Helen Barnett Alford.

Alabama Baptist Church was organized before the Civil War in Indian Territory around 1850-1900. It was during this time when the government allotted land to the Indians.

The first Alabama Church was built on the Willie Hew allotment land. The members found the ground unsatisfactory and decided to move. They purchased land belonging to Spokokee Harjo, tribal name aka Willie Lowe, Christian name. The church was built one mile north of Weleetka, Okla., for the sum of $150.

When the Civil War started, some members moved along the Canadian River and returned after the war. One of the families that moved was Elizabeth Fisher's, according to her granddaughter, Louise West.

Billy West (Louise West's Husband) and Captain Josiah Looney were Light Horsemen. Their duties were similar to the U.S. Marshals' under Indian Laws. After statehood, the Indians gave up their Indian Laws and followed white man laws. That is when Billy West and Captain Josiah Looney were converted to preachers. My childhood memory, over 60 years ago, takes me back to Sunday mornings.

My memories include the cheerful gathering of our Christian families, running and playing with other boys, large dinners on special occasions and everyone bringing their best recipes.

Being a child, I loved the blueberry dumplings and Sofsky. 68 years later, my taste buds still hunger for more.

Alabama Baptist Church was incorporated on Dec. 11, 1913. Names on the Church Charter are Billy Canard, George Asbury and Jacob Cubbie. The only living member from that time is James Harjo, Deacon. They still worship there today.

Josiah Looney started Arbeka Baptist Church, south of Bryant. Arbeka Baptist Church was transferred and organized in 1904.

Members of Alabama Church that transferred their membership to Arbeka were Billy and Louise West, Josiah Looney and Hattie West Birdcreek.

The following names are members of the first Church of Alabama Baptist Church: Austin Barnett, George Sullivan, Sam Buckley, Joshum Asbury, Dick Barnett-Minister, Jim Fife Billy Westtransfer Arbeka, Josiah Looney-transfer Arbeka, William Lowe-Deacon, Billy Canard, George Asbury, Amos Robinson, James Scott, transfer and James Harjo, Member.

Women Leaders: Lizabeth Flier-Buddy Firico; Susan Fife-Arlene Caiman; Sarah Simmons-lizzie, Dave, Eli, Alice, Fisher; Kissey Carmorl-Helen, Lizzie, Mary Genge, Louise; Louise West-Lucas West.

Women Members: Ola Buckler-Lucinda Green, Lucy Ben-Lucille Fields Hicks, Juanita Fields Dunson, Millie Starr-Lena and Josh Starr.

Greenleaf Baptist Church was transferred and organized members of Alabama Church that transferred their membership to Greenleaf Baptist Church: Wetumka Baptist Church was transferred and organized members of Wetumka Baptist Church that transferred their membership to Wetumka Baptist Church. Salt Creek Baptist Church was transferred and organized members of Salt Creek Baptist Church that transferred their membership to Salt Creek Baptist Church.

Thlewahle Baptist Church was transferred and organized members of Thlewahle Baptist that transferred their membership to Thlewahle Baptist Church.

MCN Rehab Center holds grand opening



MNN/Amanda Rutland

Oklahoma State Senator Roger Ballenger, Oklahoma State Rep. Jerry Shoemake, Oklahoma State Rep. Jerry McPeak, MCN National Council Rep. Mark Randolph, Council Rep. Johnnie Greene, MCN Secretary of Health Lt. Cmdr. Seneca Smith, MCN Principal Chief George Tiger, Miss MCN Rachael Sourjohn and MCN DOH Chief Long Term Care Officer Angela Dougherty.

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation hosted a grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony Dec. 16 for the MCN Physical Rehabilitation Center in Okmulgee. The MCN purchased the facility formerly known as the George Nigh Rehabilitation Center Aug. 12 from the University of Oklahoma.

"This day would not have been possible if it wasn't for the support of Chief Tiger and the members of the National Council.

"We appreciate the continued support as we work together to achieve the best quality of healthcare for our patients," MCN Division of Health Secretary of Health Lt. Cmdr. Seneca Smith said.

MCN Principal Chief George Tiger and Smith spoke at the event.

"It's no longer about community versus the Muscogee (Creek) Nation… it's about pulling our resources together so that it can be a win win.

"I've always said what we do as the Muscogee (Creek) Nation is good for everybody; and I believe we see that today," Tiger said.

MCN SRO January schedule

MCN SRO/*Media Release*

WETUMKA, Okla. — The following is the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Southern Regional Office schedule for January.

Jan. 1 - MCN Tribal Complex closed

Jan. 7 - Tax Commission
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Lunch 11-11: 30 a.m.

Jan. 8 - National Council
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Citizenship
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Jan. 10 - Women Infants and Children clinic
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Jan. 14 - Tax Commission
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Lunch 11-11: 30 a.m.

Jan. 15 - National Council
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Jan. 21 - Tax Commission
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Lunch 11-11: 30 a.m.

Jan. 22 - National Council
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

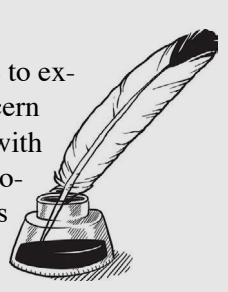
Jan. 24 - WIC clinic
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Jan. 28 - Tax Commission
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Lunch 11-11: 30 a.m.

Jan. 29 - National Council
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

For more information contact the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Southern Regional Office at: 405-452-1100

Letter to the Editor



Hello!
I would like to express a concern that I have with the tribe's Social Services Medical Travel Program. My son has been a patient at the Shriner's Hospital in Shreveport, La., for several years now. We have always turned in our travel receipts to the MCN Social Services for reimbursement. The last receipts that we submitted, we were only reimbursed for half of the travel. Don't get me wrong, I am grateful for the reimbursement, but we were depending on the full amount. When I called social services, I was informed that he has reached his $2,000 limit. Imagine my shock, when I found out that there is a limit one can receive for medical travel. Long story short, my son, who is now in college, is no longer eligible for medical travel. If you have had a child in college, you will understand when I say, "Every little bit helps." It is no fault of his, nor mine that he was born with a bone deformity. Our family, like most in our area, live paycheck to paycheck. We save what we can so we can make his appointments, but it is money that can be used elsewhere.

I would like for the National Council, or whoever is responsible for setting these limits to take into consideration that there are families who are struggling, and rely on the reimbursements.

Mvto, for your time,
Bernadette Whitetree

MCN Senior Services meeting set for Jan. 8, 2014

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The next Muscogee (Creek) Nation Senior Services meeting is set for Jan. 8, 2014 at the MCN Council Chambers on the MCN Tribal Complex in Okmulgee.

For more information contact Christy Carson at: 918-732-7765.

Can making classes set to begin Jan. 20, 2014

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Office of Cultural Preservation is taking names for a new series of classes on how to make stomp-dance cans. The next open class is set for Jan. 20, 2014 from 5:30-9:30 p.m. in the Cultural Preservation Library. Classes are limited to eight people and tools and materials will be provided.

Interested Creek citizens should call Johnnie Wesley at: 918-732-7733.

Seeking Native Arts and Crafts

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Local citizen looking to purchase wholesale authentic Native made goods.

Those interested should contact Donna at: 918-361-0749

THANK YOU

I just want to thank everyone for the phone calls, cards, visits and the prayers especially. That really helped me get through this fall I had when I broke my arm and leg. I just appreciate everyone. — Cogee Long

THANK YOU

Edwin and Abbie Larney would like to send a big Mvto to Muscogee (Creek) Nation Second Chief Roger Barnett, MCN Social Services and National Council Rep. Robert Hufft for their help during a health crisis in October.

Your assistance was very much appreciated and God bless.

Inside the MNN:

New Year's perspectives Pages 9 & 10



Researching my Mvskoke heritage Page 9

Muscogee Nation News

Official publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and a production of Mvskoke Media

Tiger discusses challenges, successes of 2013

Jan. 15, 2014
Vol. 44, Issue 2
"Rvfo Cuse"
Winter's Younger Brother

Principal chief reviews past year

Gary Fife/*MNN Editorial Assistant*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger labeled the year 2013 at MCN as progress and attributed a large portion of this to his relationship with the MCN National Council.

"I think it parallels what we came in to basically pursue; be aggressive so that we can make the effort to progress the Nation and I believe we have. It's been a good working environment with the National Council."

Former Principal Chief A.D. Ellis' relationship with the Council resulted in legal actions.

Tiger said that his cooperation with the Council would continue with the new faces coming to the legislative body. He believed things would remain positive, but there would be a period of education for the new members.

"Any time you have an election and there's some new people coming on; it's a learning process for the new ones. I know, I served for 14 years on the Council," Tiger said. "Sometimes, unless you've been around it; it's a learning curve and I believe on the average; it takes about a year and a half to actually grasp on to what's going on at the governmental side."



MNN File Photo

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger gave an overview of his administration at the MCN in 2013.

Economic Expansion

Tiger has embarked on some ambitious economic development projects during his term and said the perception that they should bear immediate financial returns is premature.

"I guess the biggest thing we can say as far as the RiverWalk and the country club is that sometimes it's unfair to compare to those purchases in terms of return on investment; if we compare it with the gaming side, because gaming is always going to return quickly," Tiger said. "We're looking at RiverWalk continued progress in terms of pursuing people to be—dare to be part of what we're doing at RiverWalk."

He said the same of the Okmulgee Country Club, which was purchased May 10, 2012 by MCN. He pointed out that deal wasn't really intended to be an investment in a golf course.

"We have people that have approached us about some possibilities; veterans housing, housing in general and not just the stereotypical Indian housing program but looking at it at another level," Tiger said.

Tiger has high

Tiger - 2

Ceremonial grounds funding veto upheld during Council session

Final meeting of MCN National Council 17th session held

Kyla McKown/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A regular session of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council was held Dec. 21 at the MCN Mound Building in Okmulgee.

The Council addressed the following legislation:

- TR 13-177 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement between the MCN and the Oklahoma Department of Human Services authorizing the sharing of criminal history record information. Rep. Johnnie Greene sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.
- TR 13-178 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs application for a business lease on restricted property regarding the Okmulgee Indian Senior Citizens operating the gift shop within the MCN Tribal Complex. Rep. Eddie LaGrone sponsored the amendment, which was postponed until the January quarterly session.
- TR 13-179 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement between the MCN, Okfuskee County, City of Okemah and the Oklahoma Department of Transportation. Reps. Frank Coachman and LaGrone sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.
- TR 13-180 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement between the MCN and the City of Okmulgee. LaGrone sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

Council - 3

MCN develops comprehensive service catalog

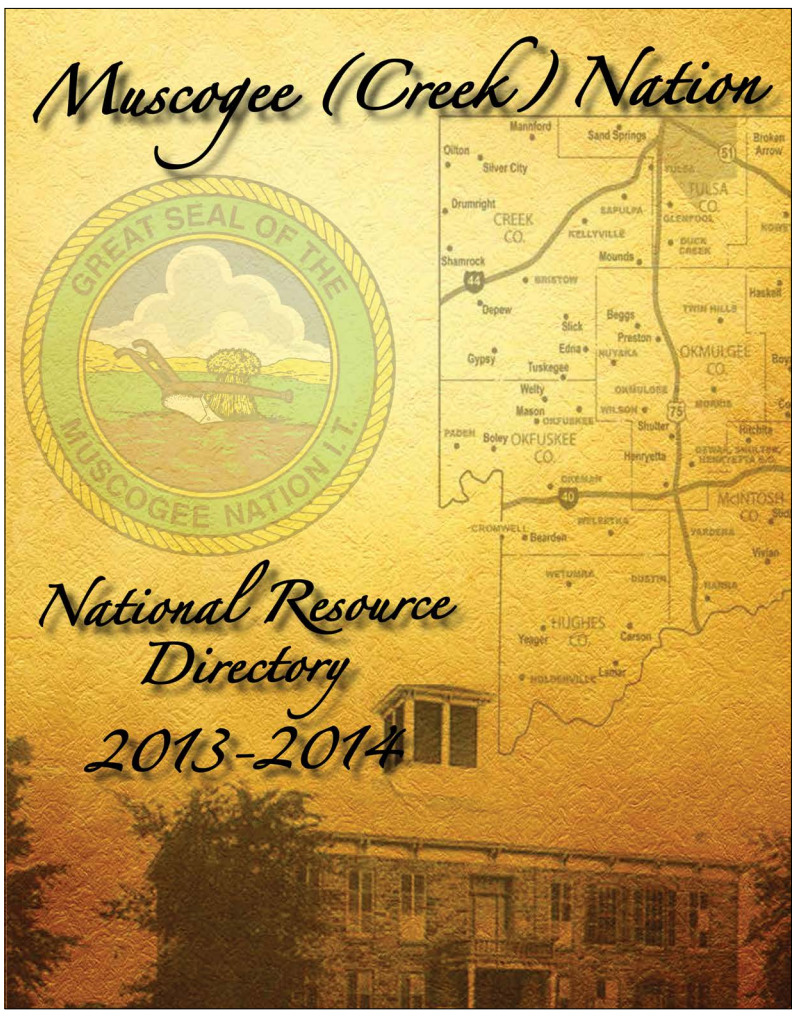
Directory to aid in knowledge of tribal services

Jessica McBride/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — What started out as a mechanism to piece together the interworking of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, morphed into a guide that will assist citizens in locating and contacting any organization under the MCN umbrella.

"This has been a big demand from community members as well as employees. We need some kind of directory," MCN Public Relations Specialist Jenifer ShieldChief Gover said. "There's nothing out there that tells us resources and contacts."

The MCN National Resource Directory created by the MCN Community Research and Development Department, will serve as a reference point for Muscogee (Creek) departments and citizens to locate, contact and understand the many subsidiaries of the Nation.



Submission

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Community Research and Development Department will release copies of the MCN National Resource Directory in January, according to CR&D Department Manager Sarai Geary.

"We not only have the main complex, but there's everything off the complex," MCN CR&D Manager Sarai Geary said. "A lot of people have a need and they don't even know where to start… this is everything consolidated into one book."

The directory is arranged according to the MCN organizational chart, which is a hierarchy of tribal entities. The index of the directory is cross-referenced to include any variation of words to describe a tribal department or entity, so that different types of people can easily navigate it.

"It's just how your brain categorizes things. That's how we tried to appeal to the masses," MCN CR&D Community Finance Officer Marcy Wakeford said. "Where would you look first?"

Directory - 2

MvskokeMedia

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To submit a change of address or a letter to the editor, call 918 - 732 - 7720 or send e-mail to: wmurphy@mcn-nsn.gov.

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Members of the Native American Journalists Association

Tiger

Continued from Page 1

expectations for the $335 million expansion of the MCN River Spirit Casino and the Nation's partnership for the project with Margaritaville Holdings LLC. He envisions it as a prime economic generator for the tribe.

"I think there's an air of excitement in the community of Tulsa and the county of Tulsa as well as the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. I think, in the studies that were done, Margaritaville-branding was one of the most, I guess you would say, sought-after in terms of what they could give back in terms of the possibilities."

OneFire Holding Company

Tiger commented on the establishment of OneFire Holding Company LLC, which was approved by the Council through NCA 13-292 during the Nov. 23 regular session.

"Well, I think, number one, the OneFire is going to give us some opportunities. As a Nation, we've never really had, per se, an outlet for the ability to develop LLCs (limited liability companies) and I think it's going to be a wonderful opportunity for the tribe to be more aggressive in getting involved with economic development.

"Tribes sometimes got involved with businesses when they shouldn't have and you have to split those things. You can't be a government and try to be in business as well. I think this kind of gives us an opportunity to separate government and business," Tiger said.

Mvskoke Dome

Tiger elaborated on the emergency closure of the multi-purpose 'Mvskoke Dome' building by executive order in April 2012. The order cited safety issues due to problems with the building's construction but at the time, details about these problems were not made public.

Tiger said it was a major fault in the way the bleachers were attached to the structure.

"The problem was the seating area; it wasn't safe. Just to have an engineer come to me and say, 'Chief, it's by the grace of God during your inauguration that we didn't have a disaster.' The seating is not as strong as it should be," he said.

He gave an update on how this issue is being handled.

"Since that time, the National Council decided to have someone come in and hire an engineering group to come in and look at solidifying the seating areas. That has been done. I understand that there is a construction company that has been chosen," Tiger said.

Tiger also provided an estimated completion date for this project.

"All this has been worked through the attorney general's office," he said. "It is my understanding that, at any time that the work will begin on that. My goal, as I've told the AG, is have it ready when the festival comes around."

The Dome has been used for a few events since the closure but the bleacher seating area has remained blocked from use Tiger added.

George Nigh/OMH

Over the summer, the tribe announced that it had acquired ownership of two local health care facilities. The former George Nigh Rehabilitation Center (now the MCN Physical Rehabilitation Center) and the Okmulgee Memorial Hospital were purchased, broadening the types of health services available under direction of the MCN.

Tiger felt the tribe should ensure these types of care remain available and that there was a good opportunity to do so.

"On the Okmulgee Memorial Hospital, they were getting ready to close their doors. We have a lot of our tribal members that use that facility," he said.

An opportunity to contribute to as well as obtain the facility was also recognized.

"When we found out that there was maybe a possibility it may be closed, we knew that there were some resources that we could bring that maybe the hospital authority didn't have on hand. So, we presented a proposal that the Okmulgee Memorial Hospital Board that they accepted," Tiger said.

Tiger also discussed the financial end of the deal.

"Basically, it was assuming the debt that they had. So, without a penny being spent out of our coffers, we were able to purchase, if you will, that hospital. We did have to provide some funding for some of the operation of it but that money came out of the health investment monies that we had in place already."

He provided a similar summary of the rehabilitation center purchase.

"On the George Nigh, it's known for the work it does. Unfortunately, because of the location and some of the providers being from Oklahoma City, there were some things we'd heard the University of Oklahoma was interested in finding someone who would be able to operate it," Tiger said.

Initial concerns about the acquisition were eventually overcome.

"So, we approached the University of Oklahoma. We met with elected officials of the state of Oklahoma in case it went to the state legislature for considerations. But everything kind of worked out on its own," Tiger said.

He provided financial details about this deal as well.

"We did purchase that facility for $1 million. But that money also came from investment monies that the health division had. It didn't come out of the coffers of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation," Tiger said.



MNN File Photo

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger gave an overview of his administration at the MCN in 2013 including the groundbreaking Oct. 15, 2013 for the $335 million River Spirit Casino expansion project.



MNN File Photos

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger gave an overview of his administration at the MCN in 2013 including the MCN acquisition of the George Nigh Rehabilitation Center Aug. 12, 2013 (left) and the Okmulgee Memorial Hospital Aug. 15, 2013 (right).

in Tulsa, Okla. He said that if he had won the election, the position would not have detracted from his duties as principal chief of the MCN.

MCN Branding

Tiger has pursued opportunities to place the name of the MCN on several public arenas and facilities.

RSC branding has been added to the Expo Center at the Tulsa Fairgrounds and the football stadium for Muskogee High School now bears the name of the tribe also. However, the National Council rejected a similar deal offering $250,000 over five years for naming rights to the Okmulgee High School stadium.

Tiger said it was good to get tribe's name out in public and share some of the tribe's financial resources with surrounding communities.

"I think it's good that we also share some of our resources and that's important. We do provide a lot of things; for instance, like roads for some of these communities through the county commissioners. We're building new bridges throughout the Muscogee (Creek) Nation," he said.

He addressed the Okmulgee High School stadium deal directly.

"The deal with the Okmulgee Public Schools which was turned down, which I don't have a problem with. That's why we have a governmental function. I think a lot of people may have thought of it as maybe not spending the money wisely in that term because it was for a quarter million dollars," Tiger said.

For 2014

Looking forward to the coming year, Tiger said he's looking at continuing to work with the local and state communities to build stronger cooperative relationships are among the items on his coming agenda.

"As you know, education about who we are and what we stand for, those continue as well. I think it's important. I think it's important that we improve and continue to expand our programs. That has to continue," he said.

Tiger named one specific endeavor he would like to focus on.

"I want to certainly pursue what we're doing in housing, economic development through the holding company (OneFire). That's a priority. I believe in the next year, the investment that's been made.

"I truly believe that we have an opportunity, through the holding company, to have success more than what we have in gaming because those opportunities are there. We've never pursued it as aggressively as I see this format taking. I'm excited about next year," he said.

Directory

Continued from Page 1

The National Resource Directory will be updated annually with new information submitted by the different departments.

According to Geary, paper copies of the directory will be sent out in January to citizens who are subscribers to the 'Muscogee Nation News' and an electronic copy of the directory will also be available in January on the MCN website: www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov.

For more information about the MCN National Resource Directory contact CR&D at: 918-732-7963.

COUNCIL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

• TR 13-181 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement between the MCN and Okmulgee County. LaGrone sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

• TR 13-182 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a special attorney contract between the MCN and the Native American Rights Fund. LaGrone sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

• TR 13-183 Authorizing the Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise to execute the attorney agreement between MNBE and Barrow and Grimm P.C. Rep. David Hill sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

• TR 13-184 Authorizing the principal chief to enter into a referenced funding agreement with the U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs. Rep. Mark Randolph sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

• TR 13-185 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a mutual agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture for the implementation of natural resources management and conservation programs of the USDA to protect, improve and maintain tribal natural resources. LaGrone sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

• TR 13-186 Authorizing the principal chief to submit a Rural Business Enterprise Grant application to the USDA for equipment, building and construction for Hanna Farms. Randolph sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

• TR 13-187 Authorizing the principal chief to execute an order form-clear services and a research subscriber agreement with West Publishing Corporation, Thomson Reuters for access to Internet Legal Research Services for various departments and programs of the MCN. Rep. Dode Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

• TR 13-188 Authorizing the principal chief to submit a RBEG application to the USDA for capitalization of revolving loan funds. Hill sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

• TR 13-189 Confirming the re-nomination of Selina Jayne-Dornan as a part-time gaming commissioner of the MCN Office of Public Gaming. Rep. Adam Jones sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

• TR 13-191 Authorizing the principal chief to enter and execute an Intermediary Relending Program Loan agreement, an Intermediary Relending Program Security agreement, an IRP Revolving Fund agreement, an IRP Loan Closing Certification, a deposit agreement for Rural Revolving Funds and an Intermediary Relending Program promissory note between the MCN and the USDA all for the funding of the Mvskoke Loan Fund. Hill sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

• TR 13-192 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a real estate purchase agreement or the purchase of real property and a medical office building located in Okmulgee. Greene sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

• NCA 13-225 Repealing MCN Code Annotated Title 4, Sections 1-101 and 1-104 and creating the Tribal Burial Assistance and Food for Funerals guidelines under MCNCA Title 35, Chapter 13. Greene sponsored the amendment, which was postponed until the January quarterly session.

• NCA 13-285 Authorizing a supplemental appropriation of $360,180 to the Citizenship Board Office's Fiscal Year 2014 budget. Rep. Kara Medina sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

• NCA 13-295 Authorizing a $3,000 donation to Kiefer Public Schools to fund a Native American culture class. Hill sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

• NCA 13-296 Authorizing a $1,942 appropriation to a Muscogee (Creek) college student. Rep. Darrell Proctor and Greene sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-1 with Barnett voting against it.

• NCA 13-297 Authorizing a $14,096.80 donation to the town of Paden, Okla. The legislation required a two-thirds majority vote to pass pursuant to NCA 10-032. Coachman sponsored the amendment, which failed 6-9 with Reps. Keeper Johnson, Robert Hufft, Pete Beaver, Thomas Yahola, Barnett, Randolph, Proctor, Hill and Medina voting against it.

• NCA 13-298 Authorizing a $2,000 donation to Paden Public Schools. Hill and Coachman sponsored the amendment, which passed 13-2 with Johnson and Medina voting against it.

• NCA 13-299 Authorizing a $2,000 donation to Mannford Public Schools. Hill sponsored the amendment, which passed 12-3 with Hufft, Medina and Johnson voting against it.

• NCA 13-300 Authorizing a supplemental appropriation of $198,234 to the MCN Tribal Transportation Program Fiscal Year 2014 budget. Randolph sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

• NCA 13-301 Authorizing the expenditure of grant funds in the amount of $398,640 awarded to the Nation for the Tribal Transportation Program to continue the Nation's partnership with the KATS Program. Randolph sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

• NCA 13-302 Amending MCNCA Title 30, Section 1-106(B) entitled "Classification of Laws" and amending MCNCA Title 5, Section 1-102(C), Section 1-105(C) and providing for cultural rights and protection and management of cultural, historical and archaeological resources. LaGrone sponsored the amendment, which was postponed until the January quarterly session.

• NCA 13-303 Authorizing a supplemental appropriation of $2,510,800 to the Higher Education-Tribal Grant and Incentive Grant Program Fiscal Year 2014 budget. Johnson sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

• NCA 13-304 Appropriating funds of $550,000 for the Mvskoke Nation Festival and repealing NCA 02-051 and its amendments NCA 02-073 and NCA 06-046, A law of the MCN appropriating funds for the 28th annual Mvskoke Nation Festival. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which was postponed indefinitely.

• NCA 13-305 Authorizing a special appropriation of $479,993.73 to Duck Creek Indian Community. The amendment was postponed until the January quarterly session.

• NCA 13-307 Authorizing a special appropriation of $428,065 to the Bristow Indian Community. Hill sponsored the amendment, which was postponed until the January quarterly session.

• NCA 13-309 Authorizing a $28,218 donation to the MCN Rodeo Association. The legislation required a two-thirds majority vote to pass pursuant to NCA 10-032. Johnson sponsored the amendment, which failed 10-5 with Proctor, Beaver, Hill, Hufft and Barnett voting against it.

• NCA 13-310 Appropriating $241,049 for the production of "The Dawes Commission" movie. Johnson sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0 with an abstention from Yahola.

• NCA 13-311 Authorizing the expenditure of grant funds in the amount of $2,719,125 awarded to the Nation by the U.S. Department of Justice and appropriating additional funds to both match the award as required by the terms of the grant and for the completion of the construction of a new regional transitional living facility. Greene sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

• NCA 13-312 Appropriating funds of $285,000 to be used toward the purchase of real property and a medical office building located in Okmulgee, Okla., and for renovation costs. Greene sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-1 with Medina voting against it.

• NCA 13-313 Authorizing a $2,000 donation to Stidham Public School. Jones sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

• NCA 13-314 Authorizing a special appropriation of $432,615 to the Okemah MCN Indian Community. Coachman sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-1 with Nichols voting against it.

• NCA 13-316 Creating a new MCNCA Title 28, Chapter 9 entitled "Muscogee (Creek) Nation Natural Resource Conservation District" and appropriating said funds of $300,000. LaGrone sponsored the amendment, which was amended to Section 9-108 and 9-109 and passed 15-0.

• NCA 13-317 Authorizing a supplemental appropriation of $92,368 to the Department of Interior Affairs Fiscal Year 2014 budget. LaGrone sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

• NCA 13-318 Authorizing a special appropriation of $4,056 to assist a Muscogee (Creek) student with education expenses. Medina sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-1 with Barnett voting against it.

• NCA 13-280 Authorizing a special appropriation to 10 Muscogee (Creek) ceremonial grounds to purchase tractors and related equipment. The appropriation was addressed and passed by Council in the Nov. 23 session but was returned by MCN Principal Chief George Tiger as a veto because of a conflict of interest.

"It turned out the owner of the equipment company was also an employee at the Nation," Hill said. "So I've got a couple of other bids out there and we'll go with that."

Reps. Pearl Thomas and Greene were absent.



MNN/Kyla McKown

Former Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Speaker Sam Alexander at the final Council meeting of the 17th session.

December 2013 a busy Month for Reintegration Program

MCN RIP/*Media Release*

HENRYETTA, Okla. — December was a busy month for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Reintegration Program. Outreach was instrumental in our impact with the families that were touched throughout the 2013 holiday season. The RIP Annual Toy Drive was a huge success this year. RIP received their largest donation to date from Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise. Midway through the Toy Drive, Program Director, Tony Fish, was presented with a $1000 check from MNBE Board Member, Michael L Hughes and MNBE CEO, Woody Anderson. Also, 27 Wal-Mart gift cards were donated from the organization, "4 Love of the Game." In conjunction with those monetary contributions, inmates housed at the John Lilley Correctional Facility knitted beanies and Christmas stockings, as they did last year, so candy, gifts and those Wal-Mart gift cards could be placed inside of for the children 13-years-old and over.

Henryetta downtown merchants like the Dollar Store and Family Dollar supported the Toy Drive by allowing RIP to place boxes at their stores and by contributing Christmas wrapping paper.

Moreover, the toy drive's message also shared by the MCN Public Relations Department. Luann Bear encouraged employees to donate and offered bracelets as an incentive.

Drop off boxes were placed throughout various buildings at the complex. The Department of Tourism and Recreation assisted the Toy Drive by allowing RIP to place a Native American sculpture, which was used in a raffle for the Toy Drive. In addition to all of the financial assistance and the donated unwrapped toys, the Muscogee Travel Plaza called the RIP office with the news that four bikes had been dropped off as part of the Toy Drive.

In addition to the Toy Drive, RIP Youth Coordinator, Keith Green and Case Manager, Sprint Williams were also able to help a few families out with youth sized coats for a few families who have and/or are going through RIP and in need of some assistance in keeping their children warm.

Another touching moment included when RIP Case Manager Florence Frank and Youth Specialist Keith Green saw an opportunity to reach out to the children who live at the Murrow Indian Children's Home in Muskogee, Okla. Florence and Keith received a Christmas "Wish List" from a Murrow Office administrator with the names of 18 children. The most touching item on one of the lists came from a 12-year-old girl who had circled "visit" as one of her top choices.

Last but certainly not least, the Okemah Child Care called the office in hopes that Santa could spread some Christmas cheer, and not only did Santa show up, but Mrs. Claus and two elves did as well!

None of this could have been done without the help from each individual and/or group. This program is so blessed to work alongside such a giving group of Muscogee people. MVTO and Happy New Year from the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Reintegration Program!

Youth develops through Mvskoke heritage



Courtesy Muskogee Phoenix
Bailee RaeAnn Allen, 16, earns 2014 Miss Native American Student Advocacy Princess for Muskogee Public Schools

Bailee Allen wins Miss NASA pageant

Kyla McKown/*MNN Reporter*

MUSKOGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Bailee RaeAnn Allen, 16, has been named Muskogee Public Schools' Miss Native American Student Advocacy Princess for 2014.

Allen is also Choctaw Euchee and Cherokee.

"It's very honoring," Allen said. "I'm just honored to be the princess and happy and excited to represent my title."

In order to participate in the Miss NASA pageant, you must be an enrolled citizen of a federally recognized tribe. But the competition is tough. Allen said this is her third time to compete in the pageant and her first victory.

The pageant consisted of an introduction of each contestant and Allen introduced herself in the Mvskoke, Choctaw and Cherokee languages. After the introduction, each participant showcased her talent.

Allen gave a stompdance exhibition in which she told a story about how stompdances came about.

Allen's grandmother, Joyce Deere, was more than impressed with her demonstration.

"She shook her cans or shells and you could tell that's a very powerful cultural exhibition," Deere said. "It's something a lot of people didn't know about or understand but she gave the explanation, so it's really explained well."

Allen called her performance "The dance of the entranced," and had other Miss NASA members assist in the exhibition for the full effect.

"The whole auditorium was just in a trance and they were all really listening," Deere said.

Allen, who is a sophomore at Muskogee High School, plays basketball for the Roughers and plans to attend Haskell Indian Nation University in Lawrence, Kan. She said playing ball in college could be an option.

But for the time being, Allen enjoys being Native American.

"I enjoy cultural events and the Creek culture," Allen said. "I just plan to keep going to stompdances and powwows."

Allen has already begun her reign as Miss NASA Princess by attending events such as the Bacone College's American Indian College Motivational Day Nov. 12, 2013, in Muskogee, Okla., with many upcoming events throughout 2014.

Deere said she believes her daughter does everything to the fullest and with the Miss NASA Princess title; she's sure she'll work just as hard.

"She's real active," Deere said. "She's concerned about things going on at school and wants to be an advocate for Native students. She's got a lot of friends and really likes to be involved."

MCN aims to bolster literacy through new program



MNN/Amanda Rutland
Muscogee (Creek) Nation First Lady Francis Tiger (right) draws names for a prize drawing Nov. 23, 2013 sponsored by the MCN Literacy Program. Tiger is the spokesperson for the Literacy Program. Also pictured is Randy Narcomey-Watson MCN Literacy Program Field Liaison (left).

Program uses online digital library to reach citizens

Amanda Rutland/*Media Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Literacy Program is an initiative with an objective to improve literacy of tribal members through: www.myon.com, an online digital library. The program is in the beginning stages of development.

The proposal was started by MCN Principal Chief George Tiger and is a venture of the MCN Education and Training Department. The idea behind an online format was to provide 24-hour access.

The MCN National Council approved $750,000 through NCA 13-262 to fund a six- month trial for the new program.

Companies like Myon typically service schools; however, the MCN Literacy Program seeks to provide services to the entire tribe. Dr. Wayne Johnson, Secretary of the MCN Education and Training Department believes this program is unique because it is opportunity for all citizens; a goal that proves challenging.

"As we move forward, obviously, it's how then do we expedite the program to provide as much access as we can," Johnson said.

Accounts with Myon are designed to evolve with readers based on their reading level and preferences.

"Myon will be tailored to that specific person, so depending on the age group it will grow with that child or that reader. It will give you suggestions of books to read. You will take tests after the books," Narcomey-Watson, MCN Literacy Program Field Liaison said.

The Literacy Program is currently gathering information about citizens in order to start assigning individual user accounts.

The Literacy Program is exploring different options to assign accounts. One option utilizes citizenships database and another gathers information using the Johnson O'Malley Program. There are approximately 16,000 students participating in MCN JOM.

Another goal of the Literacy Program is to increase knowledge of the Mvskoke language. The Literacy Program is partnering with the Mvskoke Language Preservation Program to provide books in Mvskoke.

The agreement with Myon provides for up to 30 books in Mvskoke to be made available. Johnson hopes that making these books available will spark an interest in the Mvskoke language.

By using Myon, readers will be able to see the words lighted as a narrator reads it. New books will be added to the online library, as they are made available.

The site is in the beta phase, but program workers are striving to get the site fully operational within the six-month trial period.

"It certainly puts us in a little bit of a time constraint. One to get the program rolled out to be what it needs to be and then over a six-month period put ourselves in a position to evaluate the effectiveness of it," Johnson said.

Citizens may currently log-on using a temporary username and password. It is available as an app for iPad and Android operating systems.

For more information about Myon and the MCN Literacy Program, please contact Randi Narcomey-Watson at: 918-732-7747.





Fridays in January!
NOON - 4:00PM

Diamond Rewards Free Play
Once a Diamond Club member has earned 5 points they will be eligible for a $5 Free Play on the Green Machine. Once eligible(earn 5 points), they will proceed to the player's club booth for the 'Creen Machine Free Play ticket.'

Limit of one (1) free spin per person.
Each Player wil keep all prizes won.



NOON - MIDNIGHT
$10 Diamond Play

Electronic Ticket Drawings
Jan. 1st - Jan 25th: Diamond Club players earn one (1) electronic drawing ticket with every $50 coin in.
Jan. 24th and 25th: At NOON, One (1) electronic ticket drawing every 15 minutes to spin a prize wheel. Prizes include $100 Free Play, $250 Cash, and Buck Wild Qualifiers.

Buck Wild Qualifier Drawings
At 8:00PM, Buck Wild Qualifiers will return to select an envelope. Prizes include (21) $500, (15) $1,000, (2) $2,500, (1) $5,000, (1) $10,000

This advertisement is approved by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Office of Public Gaming

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New Council representative features: Lucian Tiger III



Mvskoke Media/Tyler Roberds
Lucian Tiger III is the newly elected Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council representative for Seat B of the Tulsa District.

Tiger discusses campaign trail, goals for office

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla — Lucian Tiger III is the new National Council representative for Tulsa District Seat B.

Tiger III is from Kellyville, Okla., but now resides in Tulsa and voiced his desire to further the MCN.

"I want to be a part of helping to see the things change and make for the better here at Creek Nation," Tiger III said. "We can all work together to help make this Nation succeed."

This is the second time that he ran for National Council. The first time did not go in his favor. He waited until the next election to put his name in and he went the extra mile while campaigning by shaking hands, going door-to-door and meeting the citizens he wanted to represent.

"It was a relief at the end of this election, knowing I finally won," Tiger III said. "I ran for National Council in the last election and lost in that one so I knew what I had to do to help get the citizens to vote for me."

Tiger III admitted that he is nervous being a part of the National Council but he believes it is good to feel that way.

"I have a lot of nervous energy but it is good energy," Tiger III said. "There are a lot of things that go with being a National Council representative that a lot of our citizens do not know about and I am learning something new everyday."

Tiger III hopes to keep helping with what MCN is already doing and to be able to further develop the purchases and properties the Nation currently possesses.

"I want to be able to see the purchases that we have now, profitable" Tiger III said. " We need to get those businesses up and running to where it is good for everyone in the Nation and not just certain districts."

Tiger III knew his hands were already full as soon as he found out he won. Within a few days, citizens were calling him to discuss issues that are going on in the Nation.

"There is a lot of pressure to do things right and I am looking forward to the challenge," Tiger III said. "For everyone who supported me, I will make them proud and the ones who did not vote for me; I am going to do my best for you and hopefully I will have your support."

Tiger III is of the Wind Clan and has two daughters.

The 'Muscogee Nation News' will feature the remaining newly elected Council representatives in upcoming editions of the MNN.

HEALTH INSURANCE NOTICE

Creek Nation Employees

- Your current health insurance offers very good In network chiropractic treatment benefits
- Dr. James Ziegler is a prfferred In network doctor on your plan
- Okmulgee's chiropractor for 35 years
- Discount payment plans for Creek Nation Employees
- Auto accident insurance accepted
- Chiropractic can usually fix the cause of:

- All Headaches
- Arthritis Pain
- Acid Reflux
- Muscle Spasms
- Car Wreck Injuries
- Spine Pain
- Fibromyalgia
- Arm/Leg Pain or Numbness
- Back/Hip Pain or Spasm
- Neck/Shoulder pain or Burning

Email health questions to:
Doczigdc@gmail.com
Call 918-756-6595 for a full exam or free consultation

ASK DOCTOR Z.

Don't risk a bad disc.
Prevent Spine Surgery - Fix it now!

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(405) 452-1175

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Office: 8AM – 5PM

For more info, find us on the web at
www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

DISTRICT CO
FILED
2014 JAN 3 PM
MUSCOGEE (CREEK)
DONNA BEAVE
COURT CLERI

In the Matter of the Guardianship of the Persons and Estates of:
A. A. K.
E. D. K.
Minor Children.

Case No. GD-2013-26

SERVICE OF SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION NOTICE

To: Keith Keplinger

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued for guardianship of the Minor Children in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, GD 2013-26, styled In the Matter of the Guardianship of the Persons and Estates of: A.A.K and E.D.K.., minor children. The action alleges that the petitioner is entitled to an Order Appointing her Guardian over the minor children.

You are notified that you must answer the *Petition* filed by the petitioner or appear on the 7 day of March, 2014, at 10:00 o'clock a.m. or the allegations contained in the *Petition* will be taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of petitioner as prayed for in her *Petition*.

Given under my hand and seal this 3 day of January, 2014.

Donna Beaver, Court Clerk
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court,
Okmulgee District
By: Robie King
(Deputy)

Approved:

Courtney L. Eagan-Smith, MCN#543
McKenna & Prescott
114 N. Grand Ave, North Lobby
Okmulgee, OK 74447
(918) 756-1112 Telephone
(918) 756-1113 Facsimile
Attorney for Petitioner

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Citizen named as top 100 athlete in N.C.

Wrestler recognized by NCHSAA

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) Nation citizen Michael Kendall was honored Jan. 11 by the North Carolina High School Athletic Association for the NCHSAA '100 To Remember.'

Past inductees include six-time NBA World Champion Michael Jordan and current Chicago Bears defensive end Julius Peppers.

Kendall received this recognition for his accomplishments in the sport of wrestling. He was named NCHSAA Male Athlete of year for 1990-91 academic year and is known as one of best high school wrestlers in North Carolina history.

Kendall was born in Oklahoma and then moved to North Carolina before his freshman year in high school. He had a prestigious high school and college career in this sport.

He started in the sport at an early age.

"I started wrestling because my older brothers were wrestling," Kendall said. "Whatever sport they were doing, I wanted to do it too."

He became the first person to ever be a four-time undefeated state-wrestling champion in North Carolina. He had 153 total victories for his high school career.

"When that happened for me, words cannot describe it," Kendall said. "It was an amazing feeling knowing I put the hard work into it. I did everything I could to make myself better at this sport and this was the result."

There were not a lot of restrictions during his years of wrestling, so his coaches would bump him up several weight classes to wrestle better competition.

"The team and I got better as I got older," Kendall said. "We were not that good as a team my freshman and sophomore year although I was winning. By my junior and senior year, we won state championships."

Kendall took his success from high school onto Chapel Hill, N.C. where he wrestled for the University of North Carolina Tar Heels where he became an Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) champion.

"I liked the fact that there were several people who I wrestled in Oklahoma that were now my teammates at UNC," Kendall said. "Instead of competing, we worked to get ourselves better and push one another."

After his wrestling days were over, Kendall took to the next best thing, coaching. He went on to coach at two different schools in Chapel Hill and Raleigh, N.C. respectively. Now he runs a club called the Cardiac Kids Wrestling Club out of Hillsborough, N.C.

"I want to help kids and push them to be their best," Kendall said. "I want to help keep them goal oriented and focused and keep them away from the wrong elements."

Kendall talked about being selected by the NCHSAA as one of the top 100 high school athletes in North Carolina.

"I look at the names and I see Michael Jordan and James Worthy," Kendall said. "To have my name associated with theirs is an honor. I am baffled and elated but I am more excited that my family and friends were at the event."

Kendall has some advice for children who are getting into wrestling or any sports that they want to succeed.

"You have to push yourself and keep pushing yourself," Kendall said. "If you want to be a state champion in any sport it is in your hands. You have to put in the extra time to do it and it will not be easy but glorifying when you succeed."

For more information about the NCHSAA, visit: www.nchsaa.org.

"I look at the names and I see Michael Jordan and James Worthy. To have my name associated with theirs is an honor.

— Muscogee (Creek) wrestler Michael Kendall

Words from the wise: Mvskoke elder David Long



MNN/Amanda Rutland

Muscogee (Creek) citizens Cogee and Dave Long have been married for 15 years and frequent the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Elderly Nutrition Center.

Couple rarely miss a meal at Elderly Nutrition Center

Kyla McKown/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — After 15 years of marriage, one Muscogee (Creek) citizen has been a regular of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Elderly Nutrition Program for about 15 years or more.

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Dave Long, 73, of Okmulgee, Okla., was chosen for the first feature in a new series for the 'Muscogee Nation News.'

Dave, who is now retired, was a United Methodist Church minister for 39 years. Before that, he was a pipeline worker.

According to Dave, he is "almost" full-blood Mvskoke and he married his first wife after he completed high school. She passed away after 24 years of marriage.

He met Cogee after that and they have been married a little over 15 years.

Dave jokes that Cogee is the one who brought him to the area and the Elderly Nutrition Program each day.

"This is our regular dinner group," Dave said. "This is our table."

Cogee was actually named after Muscogee.

"Cogee is the princess. She was the princess of the tribe at one time," Dave jokes. "Her father was the late Claude Cox, former chief. So, I married into royalty."

Between Cogee and Dave, they have six children, 11 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren, who all live throughout Oklahoma.

When it comes to their hobbies, Cogee and Dave especially enjoy spending time with family.

"She likes to cook and bake and I like to watch TV," Dave said.

"I cook and he likes to eat it," Cogee said.

Another one of Dave's hobbies seems to be socializing.

"I send him to the store for one thing and he'll be gone and hour," Cogee said. "And I say, 'I know you ran into somebody out there; who'd you run into?' He'll say sure enough, he ran into so and so."

Stay tuned for another spotlight of one of our Muscogee (Creek) elders.

Creek art collector shares knowledge, history



MNN/Gerald Wofford

Muscogee (Creek) art collector John Smithee displays a portion of his collection at Perryman Ranch in Jenks, Okla.

Smithee educates through acquired items

Gerald Wofford/*Contributor*

JENKS, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) art collector Ron Smithee has been collecting Native American art for over 40 years.

Smithee is an instructor at Oklahoma State University's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute and his shares knowledge about American Indian cultures with a presentation of baskets, pottery, beadwork, rugs, games and musical items.

He is also an experienced collector and appraiser of American Indian art.

Smithee brings a unique approach to his presentations and his collection includes items from tribes all over North America.

His inspiration started with his wife, Doris.

"Back in 1970, we were traveling out west to Los Angeles," Smithee said. "We decided to pass through Santa Fe and stopped at a little art shop that had this whole big wall of black pots. My wife had just bought this book about pottery.

"It really impressed my wife so much that she said, 'lets plan on going back through Santa Fe and looking back at that shop.' So when we did, there was a piece of pottery, paid $16 for it and that's what started it all," Smithee said.

Collecting has become a lifelong commitment.

"The first two years was just one or two items," Smithee said. "Then our kids got older; I cooled down on collecting just a little; then got back into it. That's usually how a collector works."

He commented on how his taste has changed over the years.

"The bigger you collect, the more your taste goes up, Smithee said. "You see what is valuable and authentic as opposed to a copy or fake."

Smithee takes joy in sharing with others and educating in the process.

"Mine is all is show and tell," he said. "My method of teaching is to cover each item individually."

Smithee recently gave a presentation Oct. 15 at Perryman Ranch in Jenks during the American Indian Arts Association Annual Harvest Feast.

"I'll do on the average one a month, one every two months. It takes a while to get it all out and display the stuff," he said.

Smithee is 74-years-old and resides in Harrah, Okla.

He plans to continue his presentations as long as Doris lets him.

"My wife is always wondering how long I am going to do this, but I like it and as long as they keep asking me; I will."

TANF gives out turkeys to needy families



MNN/Chelsie RIch

Newly elected Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Rep. James Jennings (left), helped distribute turkeys Dec. 20, 2013, along with Erin Saltsman, MCN Temporary Assistance For Needy Families Youth Programs Coordinator (center) during a drive hosted by MCN TANF.

Program provides turkeys throughout tribal jurisdiction

Kyla McKown/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program handed out turkeys Dec. 20, 2013, to more than 160 families throughout the Nation's jurisdiction.

TANF has been in operation since January 2008.

"Throughout the years of service to our population, we have heard concerns from our participants about providing food for their families during the holidays," Neenah Tiger, MCN TANF Manager said.

This year, TANF set up three distribution locations: the TANF office in Okmulgee, MCN RiverWalk in Jenks, Okla., and the MCN Food Distribution in Wetumka, Okla.

Tiger said she believes this is just another opportunity for the tribe to assist families in becoming self-sufficient.

"Although small in gesture, we know from our participants, any help is welcomed," Tiger said. "As for our program, it is gratifying to know that we can offer this service and know it is a small, positive step in being able to assist our families we serve."

Throughout the three locations, newly elected Council representatives were there to help distribute to the families.

At the Tulsa, Okla., location, 57 turkeys were provided to families along with 24 at Wetumka and 80 at the TANF office in Okmulgee.

For more information about TANF visit: www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov/Pages/TANF/tanf.html.

Geospatial Department puts MCN on the map



Submission

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Geospatial Department maps and identifies resources throughout the 11 county jurisdiction of the MCN.

Department aims to make information user-friendly for citizens

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla — Have you ever heard of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Geospatial Department? Do you know what GIS stands for?

The Geospatial Department maps and identifies resources throughout the 11 county jurisdiction of the MCN. They perform these tasks utilizing GPS remote sensing, surveying, aerial data collection and cartography to aid in the building and maintenance of a mapping system in GIS.

GIS stands for Geographic Information Systems, and is made up of hardware, software, data and solutions for mapping. This type of software displays, on a computer, features on earth such as: buildings, cities, roads, rivers and jurisdictional boundaries.

This department was established in 2009 with hope that it will help citizens identify tribal locations and assets throughout MCN including: drinking water, oil, gas and minerals.

"When this department was started, it was going to be used for the Emergency Management to be able to get to locations in the Nation," GIS Manager for the Geospatial Department, Frank Harjo said. "We also wanted to make it accessible to citizens too."

Currently, they work closely with other MCN departments such as: Arbor Care, Community Research and Development, Emergency Management and the Housing Authority. They provide mapping and location services to help these departments and Muscogee (Creek) citizens.

This growing department is assisting the tribe in learning what natural resources are located in MCN and helping the Nation to maintain control of its assets.

"The information that we are obtaining is good for a lot of departments within the tribe," Harjo said. "The information gathered can be used for meetings to display and have ready."

The data gathered is used to build a centralized database. The Geospatial Department wants to move all information into online portals to make it more accessible to tribal departments, programs and citizens. The department wants everyone who has Internet access to be able to view all information they gathered from either their home or business computers.

"We want to make it more user-friendly for everybody," Harjo said. "So we are hoping to be able to get this online portal going very soon."

For more information about the Geospatial Department call: 918-549-2510.

Lighthorse Explorers brings positive message to communities



Submission

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthorse Police Department Explorer program Color Guard.

Program teaches youth about tribal law enforcement

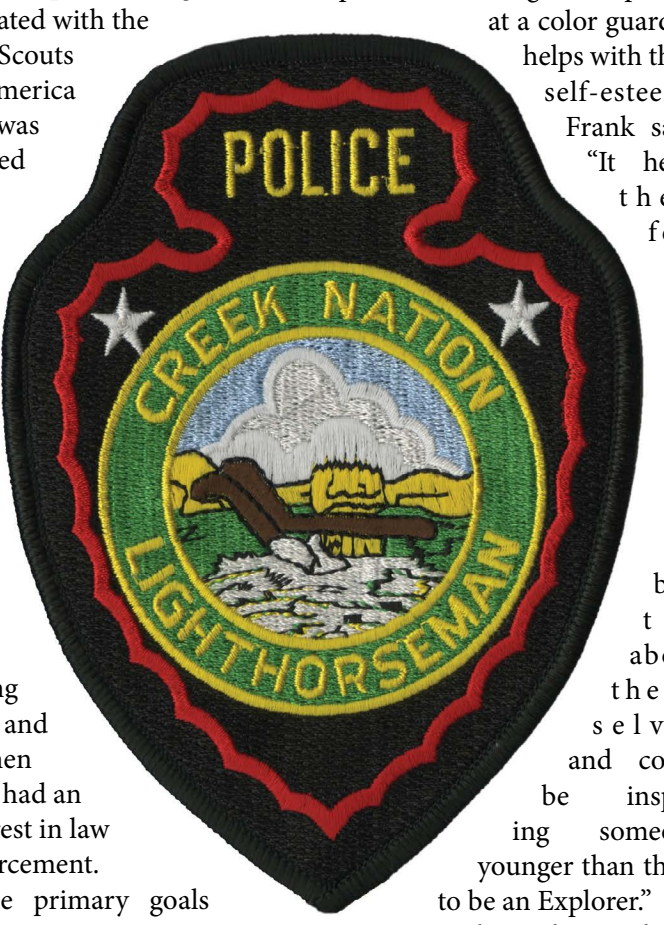
Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Are you an American Indian teenager living in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation boundaries? Are you between the ages of 14-21? Do you have an interest in tribal law enforcement?

If you answered yes, then you may be interested in the MCN Lighthorse Explorers Program.

The MCN Lighthorse Explorers Post 106 is the first tribally functioned Explorers post in Oklahoma. The program began in 2003.

The Explorers Program is affiliated with the Boy Scouts of America and was started for young men and women who had an interest in law enforcement.



The primary goals of the program are to assist young adults who wish to enter into a law enforcement career and challenge them to become responsible citizens in their communities.

"This program benefits both our Nation and the explorers that are with us," Executive Officer Daniel Wind III said. "We helped them to understand what law enforcement is and what goes on when we are on duty."

Wind and Lead Advisor Jeff Frank feels that the members of the Explorer Program are at a delicate age where they can make decisions that could help or hurt them.

"A lot of the kids might run around with the wrong group," Frank said. "When they see the law enforcement side of it, they can see how we work and go back to their communities to tell their friends about it."

Frank and Wind III want to show the children that are in or interested in the program that law enforcement is more than arresting people. When the children first show up for meetings, they are timid because of what they see on television or in their neighborhood.

"When our Explorers join us for the first time, you can see how timid they are when they see the us and our officers," Frank said. "We want to break that image that they have of law enforcement and the only thing that we do is arrest people. There are times that does happen but overall; we are here to help people."

MCN Lighthorse Explorers are taught tribal laws and traditional customs and wear Lighthorse uniforms, complete with badges and insignia, which distinguishes them as being a Lighthorse Explorer.

"When people see our Explorers marching in the parade at a color guard, it helps with their self-esteem," Frank said. "It helps them feel better about themselves and could be inspiring someone younger than them to be an Explorer."

Frank and Wind III want children or youth to be a part of the program but emphasize that family and school come first.

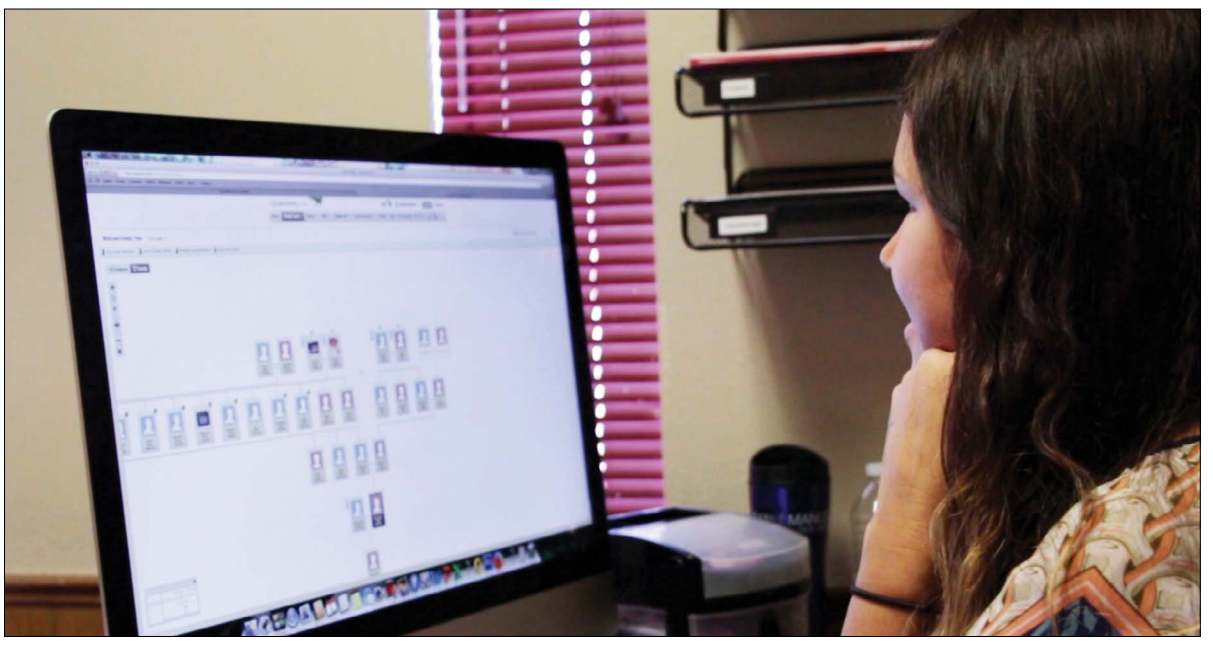
"They have to be respectable to their families and they have to be passing their classes in school," Wind III said. "That is very important to our department and important to them. When they excel at home and school, we know they will excel with us."

The MCN Lighthorse Police Department wants the Explorers Program to generate future law enforcement officers, whether it is with MCN Lighthorse or elsewhere.

"We are pretty much getting them ready to take over our jobs," Wind III said. "That is why we show them what the field officers, investigators and our police chief do. These will be the kids who will helping out our citizens in the future."

For more information on the MCN Lighthorse Explorers Program contact Daniel Wind III or Jeff Frank at: 918-732-7800.

Researching my Mvskoke heritage



MNN/Amanda Rutland

'Muscogee Nation News' Reporter Kyla McKown researches and traces her ancestors back to pre-removal of Native Americans.

Census, Dawes Roll assist in research of Native ancestry

Kyla McKown/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — As a Muscogee (Creek) citizen, I went throughout school and college knowing I was a Native American but not knowing much about the culture behind my Mvskoke heritage.

Once I started working for the tribe, it made me want to research my ancestors and know more about where I came from.

After working on this project for more than a month, I realized this could be a never-ending thing. There is so much to be found and researched just through government documents and census records.

One of the most important tools I used was the Dawes Final Rolls index. This index can be found at: www.okhistory.org.

This is a list of everyone who signed up after the removal. A tricky part I ran into was that during that time, a lot of Native Americans were leery of signing the rolls. Another problem people like myself may run into, is that the rolls are only recorded from 1898-1906.

That being said, with the more generations that pass, the harder it will become to trace ancestors back to that time-period.

Consequently, it's also hard to read some of the handwriting on the rough photocopies of the rolls index and any other census-type records.

Fortunately, I was able to work with a coworker, Amanda Rutland, who has experience researching her own ancestry and was able to help me dig deep.

Rutland was able to find a number of documents and records that traced my family back on all parts of my family tree.

As for my Native American side, I was able to go to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Citizenship Office and get an "8x10" printout of my blood quantum, as well as my family members' roll numbers.

After getting the printout, Rutland and I headed over to the MCN Cultural Preservation Library and Archives. We were able to speak with Chumona Deere, an archivist for the tribe. She was able to tell me my tribal town, which is Big Springs. However, we were unable to find my clan.

Some of my other findings are that I am actually Cherokee on my father's side, which I was unaware of. Another finding that I plan to research deeper is that I could be related to the Perryman family of Tulsa, Okla., who were also Muscogee (Creek).

Other facts and history I found were just interesting. I learned that on my Cherokee side, the Cherokee woman actually married an Englishman who had come over. He married into the Cherokee tribe.

I also found records of a moonshiner in the family. He was put in jail for a year and one day for distilling.

Although all of these facts have been found, I still plan to continue doing my research and finding out more about my ancestors. If possible, I'd like to look into getting the information needed to change my blood quantum to add the Cherokee side to my Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood card.

I know this will take much more research, records and paperwork but it would be an excellent continuation of my story.

The MCN Cultural Preservation Department Library and Archives staff is always willing to look through their records and get any information you may need. Websites are useful as well, such as: www.ancestry.com.

Tips for researching your genealogy

Amanda Rutland/*Media Specialist*

There are several options to take to start researching family genealogy.

- Start with what you know. Ask elder family members names and places. This will help later.
- If family members are on the Dawes roll, they tend to be listed together by household. You can search the Final Dawes roll online at: www.okhistory.com/research/Dawes.
- It helps to build an online "Tree" to keep information organized. Although sites like www.Ancestry.com and www.Archives.com exist, free alternative sites are www.familysearch.org and: www.rootsweb.com. FamilySearch is moderated by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.
- If you aren't getting many results, try alternate name spellings or birthdates. Records often have errors.
- It helps to know history and terminology from the specific time period you are researching. It helps to decode some of the documents.
- When searching census records, there are a number of same name/same place finds to verify the accuracy see if the other members of the household match. For example the names of children or spouse.
- Some other resources to keep in mind are libraries, funeral homes for obituaries and Social Security Death Index.
- Remember, making discoveries can take time.

DeLaune's corner: What does the new year mean to you?



New beginnings can start small

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — What does New Year's mean? Does it mean to make a fresh start in life? Does it mean that from the past year that all things should be forgotten or is it just another day?

It could mean one or both of these to some people.

We as a whole, celebrate the new year as a new beginning. A brand new way to start new goals and try to make changes that are for the positive.

We try to look at the past year or years' achievements and failures and see how we can improve.

You the reader have already made a great achievement this year. You are still alive.

ton in the 1983 NCAA Basketball Tournament. He had a speech at the ESPY awards in 1993 that could be considered one of the greatest speeches of all time. Here is a quote from that speech.

"To me, there are three things we all should do every day. We should do this every day of our lives. Number one is laugh. You should laugh every day. Number two is think. You should spend some time in thought. And number three is, you should have your emotions moved to tears; could be happiness or joy.

"But think about it. If you laugh, you think, and you cry, that's a full day. That's a heck of a day. You do that seven days a week, you're going to have something special." Jim Valvano said.

About two months later he passed away from cancer. Although everyone could tell that

"To me, there are three things we all should do every day. We should do this every day of our lives. Number one is laugh. You should laugh every day. Number two is think. You should spend some time in thought. And number three is, you should have your emotions moved to tears; could be happiness or joy.

— The late coach Jim Valvano

A lot of people think their lives are very boring and nothing will happen throughout their day (myself included). Remember there are a lot of things that can go wrong everyday that could hurt you (watch 'Final Destination'…just kidding).

A lot of people worry with the new year that they are getting older. Do not call it that. Call it wiser. You learn something new every single day. It may benefit you or it may hurt you but you learn from it.

With the new year comes new resolutions. We resolve to quit smoking. We resolve to exercise more or save more money. Some people keep those resolutions; the majority do not.

One thing to remember when it comes to resolutions is you can always start small and work into something bigger.

There was a speech from a great coach named Jim Valvano. He coached at North Carolina State and led his team to an improbable upset victory against the University of Houston in the 1983 NCAA Basketball Tournament. He had a speech at the ESPY awards in 1993 that could be considered one of the greatest speeches of all time. Here is a quote from that speech.

"To me, there are three things we all should do every day. We should do this every day of our lives. Number one is laugh. You should laugh every day. Number two is think. You should spend some time in thought. And number three is, you should have your emotions moved to tears; could be happiness or joy.

"But think about it. If you laugh, you think, and you cry, that's a full day. That's a heck of a day. You do that seven days a week, you're going to have something special." Jim Valvano said.

About two months later he passed away from cancer. Although everyone could tell that he was hurting physically, he always had a smile on his face and he could light up a room just by being in your presence. Not once did he let the disease diminish him.

This is what my resolution will be. Laugh, think and cry. I will try and do that everyday.

Now if you know me, I laugh; I laugh a lot (a little too much in some people's eyes). But that is me. I do think and from time to time I do cry. Nothing is wrong with that at all. So I want to make it a point to try and think more and if there is something that can move me to tears, great. Hopefully it will be from happiness and joy.

This will be my New Year's resolution. Very simple and hopefully very easy. I hope the words in that quote have a meaning to you like they do for me. So my last question is, would you like to join me? Make this resolution as your own.

Have a happy New Year!

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2014 brings chance for new opportunities



MNN/Amanda Rutland

Unique outlooks provide helpful advice

Jessica McBride/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — It is that time again; the time when the diet plans and workout regiments run amuck. The New Year's resolution is a popular trend year after year where people envision a good time to get a new start on life.

Some Muscogee (Creek) citizens around Okmulgee have a plan for what they would like to accomplish in 2014.

"My New Year's resolution is to eat healthier," College of the Muscogee Nation student Courtney Rogers said.

Not every person has made firm resolutions, but some still have an idea of where they would like to improve.

"I usually don't make New Year's resolutions, but I know I want 2014 to be a much better and healthier year," Denise McCrary, MCN Family Violence Prevention Program Case Worker said.

Nancy Mason, MCN Education and Training Youth Coordinator, said that she prefers to make goals instead of a New Year's resolution.

"Because I think people fall back on their resolutions pretty quickly," Mason said. "And if you have goals, it's things you can evaluate…"

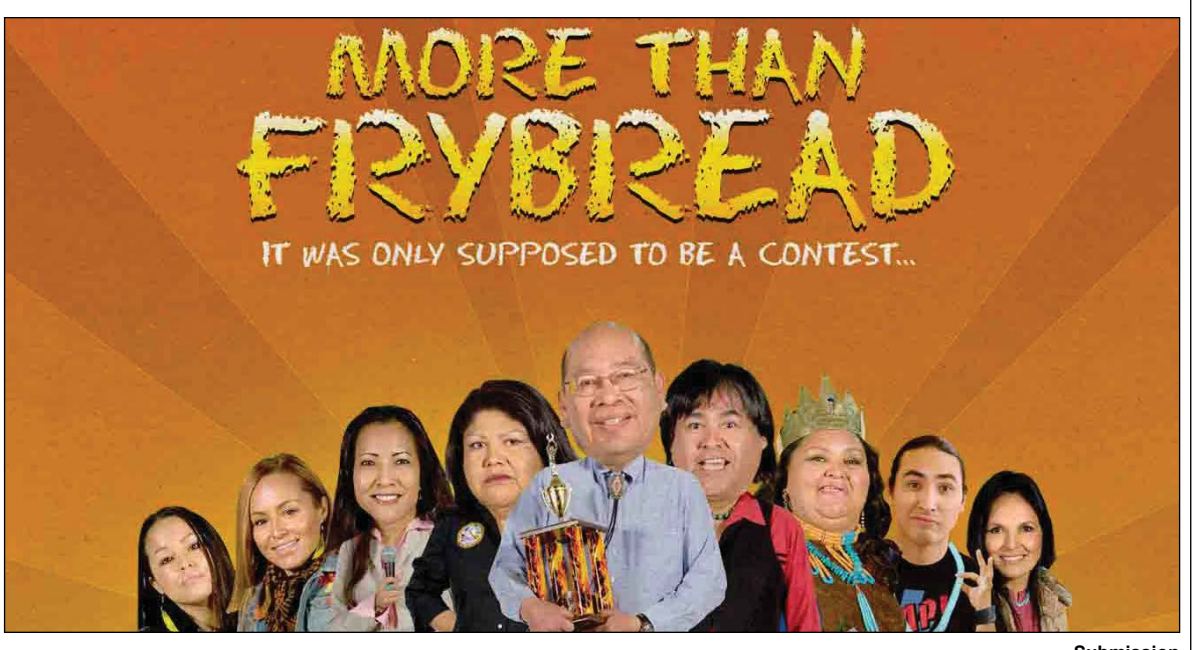
Unfortunately, whether it is to quit smoking or achieve a dream, only eight percent of people in the United States achieve their resolution according to: www.statisticbrain.com/new-years-resolution-statistics.

Some people choose to pursue their resolution through their work instead of in their personal lives.

"My New Year's resolution is to be a better advocate for communities and to be the best advocate I can be," MCN Community Research and Development Manager Sarai Geary said.

Whether the resolution is a huge undertaking or just baby steps to achieve a goal, the beginning of a new year gives people an opportunity for a new start and fresh look on life.

Movie review: 'More Than Frybread'



Submission

Native mockumentary 'More Than Frybread,' produced by Travis Hamilton was screened in Tulsa, Okla., Nov. 21.

Filmmaker presents unique Indian characters

Gerald Wofford/*MNN Contributor*

TULSA, Okla. - From the movie 'Forrest Gump' came the popular line, "life is like a box of chocolates; you never know what you're going to get."

The same is true with movies featuring Native Americans as the central theme.

These productions range from overly dramatic to downright silly.

Failed attempts to present the main character(s) as stoic or a wisecracker are evident in movies such as last summer's bomb, 'The Lone Ranger.'

So what about a Native American mockumentary?

A mockumentary is a type of film, which features fictional characters and events presented in documentary style to parody a documentary film

This satirical format is not intended to be taken seriously.

In 'More than Frybread,' the audience is welcomed to the world of cooking frybread. Frybread has long been a Native American staple that each tribe cooks in their own unique way.

The story is set in Arizona where Native cooks compete for the "first ever, first annual" state of Arizona Frybread Championship where the winner will be given an opportunity to compete in the national frybread competition in New York City.

The film presents each character with ambitions and personality quirks that make it a delight to watch. It truly is a comedy mockumentary with Native humor throughout.

The colorful cast includes characters like a woman who still envisions herself as a Native American princess, an over confident musician artist wannabe, a self righteous businesswoman who feels that no one else can make frybread like she can and a square go-by-the-book frybread commissioner.

Although the film was made in 2012, 'More than Frybread' made its Tulsa debut at the Circle Cinema on Nov. 21, and a debut in Oklahoma the day before in Lawton.

Director-producer Travis Holt Hamilton was pleased with the turnout. "This is my first time visiting Oklahoma," said Hamilton. " I hope the film is well received."

It seemed to be that way as a healthy crowd at the Circle Cinema laughed and applauded throughout the movie.

It was important for Hamilton to capture the Native frybread humor.

"I have journeyed across Native America and when it comes to frybread, a lot of my friends claim their tribe or grandma makes the best frybread," Hamilton said. "I wondered why there wasn't a competition... It was a fun idea."

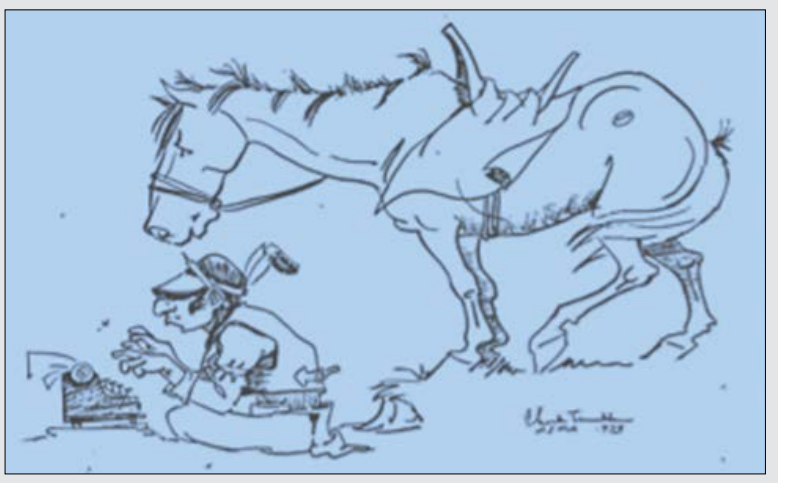
Hamilton made the independent film in 2012 and without a national distributor, presents the film whenever invited.

"I'm just really thankful for the people here at Circle Cinema for giving me a chance to present this to Indian country in Oklahoma," Hamilton said.

'More than Frybread' is a must see if you enjoy Native American films or mockumentaries that don't take themselves too seriously.

Out of a possible four frybreads, 'More than Frybread' gets three.

Emvpanyv:
'One who tells a story'



Keeping warm, Oklahoma Indian Liaison, loss of leaders

Gary Fife/*MNN Editorial Assistant*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — How you dealin' with this cold weather?

I was checking out local and national weather reports and saw where it was warmer in my old town of Anchorage, Alaska than it was here, not to mention most of the northern states. Made me sort of miss that place until I saw where there was about three feet of snow also. I don't miss that part at all.

The temps and wind chill here made me break out my Alaska wolf ruff parka.

Social Services has some energy assistance programs in case you might need some help in paying your heating bills. The programs are meant for those who really need the help, so keep that in mind. Keep an eye out for those who might need the help.

I took a quick look at the recent report from Jacque Hensley, the new Indian Liaison for Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin.

There were lots of talks, consultation, encouragements and the like, but I really didn't see any firm achievements. Things like new laws or state policies didn't seem to be included.

Here's an except from an introductory letter:

"First, tribal leaders wanted a more meaningful government-to-government relationship with the state. Second, the welfare of Indian people, both inside and outside of Indian Country, should be a top priority. And, third, there needed to be more tribal-state partnerships on economic development opportunities. Have I been able to resolve all of these issues over the past 12 months? Unfortunately not."

There had been some native leaders I chatted with who said there hadn't been much concrete change brought to Indian affairs in the state, since the Indian Affairs Commission was abolished.

I'll keep looking, though, I haven't seen or heard of much except a lot of meetings.

Here's hoping.

It's been a period for the loss of Natives who rose to leadership positions in vastly different arenas at the end of 2013. Three notable Indians have passed on.

Moving on to the Creator was Blackfeet legislative activist Forrest Gerard whose battlegrounds were the halls of the U.S. Congress in Disneyland-On-The-Potomac. Although not a household name, Gerard was a fixture on Capitol Hill during the '70s and '80s. He was one of many who worked to push through many of the landmark pieces of legislative that became the cornerstones of Indian law today. Count among them the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, the Indian Finance Act, and the Indian Health Care Improvement Act.

Former American Indian Movement activist Carter Camp has died. A member of the Ponca tribe, the 72-year-old also passed on at the end of 2013.

He was present at the 1973 occupation of Wounded Knee, S.D., the Trail of Broken Treaties that trashed the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Disneyland-On-The-Potomac and many of the other major incidents that AIM participated in. He later fell out in a major disagreement with the leadership of the group.

He kept up his support for many Native causes, including opposition to the Keystone XL pipeline.

For the folks who weren't familiar with him, the trailblazer for the Native American comics of today just passed away. Oneida comedian Charlie Hill died of lymphoma at the end of 2013 after battling the disease for a year.

Hill, 62, was the first Indian comic to appear on national television with his appearance on the Richard Pryor show in 1977. That was followed by a gig on the 'Tonight Show' with Johnny Carson. His act always put an elbow into the rib cage of Uncle Sam and America's stereotypical conceptions about Native peoples.

His routines always focused on themes of Native reaction to the occupation of our continent by European settlers. A good example was his thoughts on the Pilgrims moving onto the East coast. When asked by the local Wampanoags about the length of their stay, the Pilgrim reply was: 'Til after Thanksgiving."

Thanks go to Gale Toensing of Indian Country Today. She wrote in her remembrances of how Charlie Hill and his brother Rick dealt with hearing the news of his illness:

"There was silence for a moment as the brothers contemplated the good times they'd had during their long relationship—and its imminent end. "Then Charlie says to me—this is right after the doctor gives him the bad news—he says, 'Hey, you wanna come with me?"

Charlie Hill gave me one of my favorite lines that I still plagiarize today: "If I win a big award, I'll probably refuse it for the way Hollywood treated Marlon Brando."

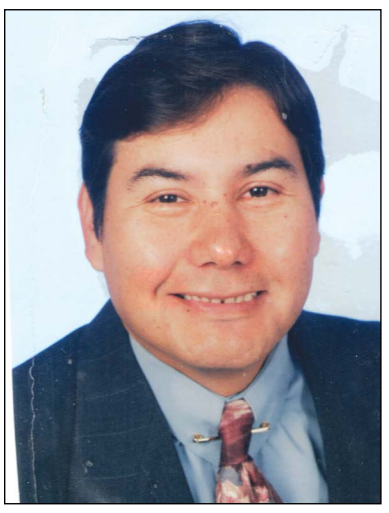
I hope there are still a few of you around who are old enough to get the joke. Remember Sacheen Littlefeather?

Wow. That's a lot of contemporary Indian history that just passed from us.

- Hvtvm Cehecares, 'I will see you again.'

OBITUARIES

GEORGE AUTAUBO



OKMULGEE, Okla. — George Henry Autaubo, 58, a longtime resident of Okmulgee, went to be with our Lord and Savior Dec. 14 in the privacy of his home. He was born March 3, 1955 to George Clay Autaubo and Rebecca (Simmers) Autaubo in Claremore, Okla.

He was preceded in death by: his father, George Clay Autaubo; nephew, Christopher Clay Chisholm and grandmother, Sarah Simmers.

Survivors include: children, Stephanie Autaubo and husband, Jay Schippers of Fort Collins, Colo., Matthew Autaubo of Okmulgee, Sarah Autaubo-Bagby of Okmulgee and Jonathan Clay Autaubo of Okmulgee; mother, Rebecca Autaubo of Okmulgee; brothers, Rodney Autaubo and wife, Gail and Timothy Autaubo and wife, Jennifer; sisters, Linda Chisholm and husband, Frank, Adeline Sloma and husband, Jerry and Evelyn Pridgen; 13 grandchildren; aunt, Priscella Kahbeah; five nieces; six nephews and numerous other relatives and friends.

Funeral Services were held Dec. 20, 2013 at the Tallahassee Indian Methodist Church in Okmulgee with Pastor Sammy Chupco, Mark Forde and Sonny Harjo officiating.

Burial followed the service at the Miller Cemetery under the direction of the Jackson Funeral Home and Crematory in Okmulgee.

Friends may send their condolences to www.jacksonfhandcrematory.com.

CHRISTOPHER HILL



SHAWNEE, Okla. — Christopher "Chris" Hill, a resident of Weleetka, Okla., passed away Dec. 11, 2013 in Shawnee at the age of 41.

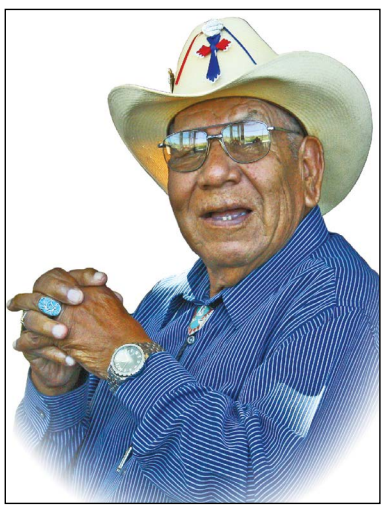
He was born Dec. 2, 1972 in Tahlequah, Okla., to Edward Scott Jr. and Maxine Hill.

Chris was preceded in death by his maternal and paternal grandparents.

Christopher is survived by: his fiancé, Patricia Buckley of Shawnee; daughter, Kirsten Hill of Weleetka; mother, Maxine Hill of Weleetka; father, Edward Scott of Weleetka; sisters Gracine Hill of Weleetka, Raylynn West of Wetumka, Okla., and Farrah Anthony of Stroud, Okla.; brother Scott West of Weleetka, 6 nephews and a host of other relatives and friends.

A funeral service was held Dec. 14, 2013 at Integrity Chapel. Interment followed at Wiley-Watson Family Cemetery near Dustin, Okla. Services are under the direction of Integrity Funeral Service.

EUNICE HILL



TULSA, Okla. — Eunice Hill, 76, of Okmulgee passed away Nov. 13, 2013 in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He was born Sept. 2, 1937 to Jack and Susie Hill in Okemah, Okla.

Eunice attended school at Plainview, Sunrise elementary, and Pharaoh High School.

He served as a Sergeant in the U.S. Army Reserves and was honorably discharged in 1965. Eunice was employed as a welder, supervisor for a tree service company and a butcher.

Eunice was on the crew that worked for the City of Tulsa in the 1980s and was instrumental in preserving the tree that stands at the Council Oak Park. When he was instructed to cut the tree down, he and two others on the crew re-fused because they knew the history of the tree and its significance for the Creek people.

City officials were contacted and agreed that the tree was a historical site and should not be cut down.

Eunice loved to play baseball, basketball, fast-pitch softball and pool.

He was known for being a great catcher and outfielder.

He was also an excellent pool player.

He enjoyed watching western movies, going to pawn shops, garage sales and riding his red scooter all over Okmulgee and Okemah.

Eunice was a member of the Nuyaka Ceremonial Ground and a strong believer in the ceremonial ways, serving as a speaker of the ground for many years.

He was well known for being a great leader and admired by many. Eunice will be missed by many.

Eunice was preceded in death by: both his parents and brothers: Dave, Dewey, Benjamin and Roman Hill.

He is survived by: his wife Wanda Hill of Sapulpa, Okla.; children, Rhonda Cassaday of Sapulpa, Sonny Hill of Glenpool, Okla., and Russell Hill of Sapulpa; grandchildren, Darby Cassaday, Ryan Hill, Cherie Cassaday Nabozny, Mark Hill, Jayce Hill, Bradley Hill, Derek Hill and Jaden Hill; brothers, Chapman, Jacob, Josie and Billy Hill; sisters Amy, Maxine and Lilly Hill along with many other members of the family and many friends.

ANN HOLDER



SAPULPA, Okla. — Ann F. (Rolland) Holder went to be with our Lord Tuesday, Dec. 3, 2013.

She was born on May 28, 1919 North of Bristow.

She is preceded in death by: her husband Robert Holder; parents, Jacob and Sallie Rolland; sister Addie (Rolland) George and her brother Albert Rolland.

Ann Holder was a loving mother to Robert I. Lee, and Sammie C. Revis of Oklahoma City, Gerald Scott of Moore, Okla., Harley E. Revis, Faith A. Revis, Marie Revis, Lester Revis, and Edmond Dale of Sapulpa, Okla. She has 18 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Holder attended Eufaula Indian Boarding School and attended high school at Sequoyah Indian Boarding School in Tahlequah, Okla. Afterward she attended Haskell Institute in Lawrence, Kan. Mrs. Holder also served as a member of the Women Auxiliary Army Corp (WAC) from 1941-1943. She made her home in Sapulpa and a valuable member of the Native American Church – Yuchi Chapter and the Polecat Ceremonial ground.

Mrs. Holder held the position of court clerk for the City of Glenpool. She was a dispatcher for the Glenpool Police Department until her retirement in 1986.

Funeral services were held Dec. 6, 2013 at the Smith Funeral home and internment was at the Oakridge Cemetery in Mounds, Okla.

Arrangements are under the direction of Smith Funeral Home, Sapulpa.

ROBERT LENA

WETUMKA, Okla. — Robert Louis Lena, also known as Bonnie to his family and friends, was born Sept. 16, 1970 to Robert Lena and Judy Harjo Lena and passed from this life

Dec. 3, 2013 at his home in Wetumka at the age of 43.

Robert spent his earliest years in Wetumka and attended Wetumka School until the sixth grade. He then attended junior high school at Liberty Mounds, later returning to Wetumka to complete high school. Robert played all sports and especially excelled in track and had the opportunity to represent Wetumka at the Anadarko Track and Field competition. However, football was his favorite sport.

Following graduation in 1988, he attended Haskell Indian College. Robert later relocated to Texas where he was trained as a pipefitter and was employed by Amoco Oil in Texas City. He returned to Wetumka after medical conditions forced him into early retirement. He was an avid football fan and was very loyal to the Wetumka Chieftains. He was also a major Texas Longhorn fan.

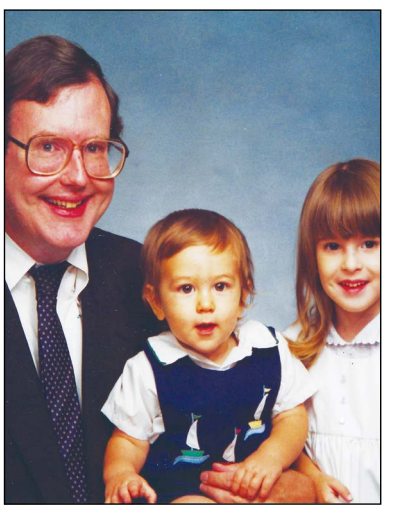
Robert was baptized at the age of fourteen at the Little Quarsarty Indian Baptist

Church where he was actively involved in the RA's. Most recently he attended the First Assembly of God Church in Wetumka. He enjoyed family gatherings as he loved spending time with his family and loved ones.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his grandmother Nancy Chupco

Marshall, his grandfather Louis 'Doc' Harjo, and a great-grandmother Emma Hully Scott.

HOUSTON SHIRLEY



TULSA, Okla. — Houston loves God and our Lord Jesus Christ. His humble, loving kindness and selfless actions were an extension of this love. His love for his family knew no bounds. Houston shared his kindness with everyone he met and leaves behind a legacy that will be matched by few, and remembered by many. His greatest joy in life was his family. Houston shared his love of knowledge, reading, and researching genealogy with his wife, Sally.

The Honorable Justice Houston Iluf Shirley, III was born Jan. 8, 1946 in Tulsa, Okla., to Houston Iluf Shirley, Jr. and Julia Elizabeth Brant. He graduated from Tulsa Central High School in 1964. Houston was an active member of the Boy Scouts of America and a proud Eagle Scout. A hard worker from the early age of 12, Houston's first job was getting up at 4 a.m., riding his bike to deliver the early morning Tulsa newspaper.

He received his Bachelors Degree in Political Science with honors studies in economics from the University of Oklahoma in 1968. In September 1969, Houston volunteered for service in the U.S. Army and served as a first lieutenant, information officer for both the 1st and 4th Armored Division in Europe. He attended Armor, Infantry, Calvary Officer School and Department of Defense Information School.

In 1974, Houston graduated with his Juris Doctor from the University of Tulsa. The Honorable Justice Houston Iluf Shirley, III was admitted as Attorney and Counselor of the Supreme Court of the U.S. of America. He was also admitted to the Supreme Courts of Oklahoma and Texas. Houston was a member of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th and 10th Circuit Courts and was admitted to practice in the U.S. District Courts of Oklahoma and Texas. Houston served as justice of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Supreme Court for 13 years, including serving as a chief justice.

Houston was an attorney for 39 years, first in Houston, Texas, then owning his own law practice in Bixby and Glenpool, Okla. He was a member of Bixby First United Methodist Church, the Bixby Masonic Lodge No. 359, a lifetime member of the Bixby Historical Society and a master mason of the 32 degree of the McAlester Scottish Rite.

Houston was a proud Muscogee (Creek) citizen and member of the Hotvlkvlke Clan. His great-great-grandfather Harris Berryhill came to Oklahoma as a boy during Removal from Alabama, a member of the Rekvckv Town, and was a teacher in the Creek schools of Tokpvfkv. His grandmother Gracie Berryhill was born near the present Kiefer, where she and her family received their allotments. His grandparents Mae Bryne and Harlan Brant lived in Tulsa. Harlan was an early oil driller, first in Harlansburg, Pa., then the Tulsa area.

Houston is survived by: his wife Sally La-Nell Shirley, daughter Elizabeth La-Nell Shirley, son Nathaniel Houston Shirley, daughter-in-law Rachel Lee Shirley, grandson Harlan Mason Shirley, brother David George Shirley, nephew Michael David Shirley and niece Theresa Ann Shirley.

In Memory of Houston, bequests may be made to the Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children, 2222 Welborn St., Dallas, TX 75219.

Bixby Funeral Service 918-369-1700. Services were held Dec. 18, 2013 at First United Methodist Church of Bixby, 15502 South Memorial Dr. Bixby, Oklahoma 74008.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DIVISION

DISTRICT COURT
FILED
2014 JAN 3 AM 9 50
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
DONNA BEAVER
COURT CLERK

ELIZABETH DUNN (NOW TOTTRESS),
Petitioner,
vs.
GEORGE DUNN,
Respondent.
Case No. CV-2013-168

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA TO: GEORGE DUNN

You are hereby notified that Jennifer Johnson has filed in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee, Oklahoma, an application seeking to domesticate a judgment obtained in Okmulgee County, State of Oklahoma, seeking to collect a debt.

And that the 3rd day of March, 2014, at 1:30 o'clock p.m. in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee, Oklahoma, has been appointed as the time and place for hearing said petition, when and where any persons interested may appear and show cause, if any they can, why such appointment should not be made.

Dated this 3rd day of January, 2014.

Court Clerk

By: Stephanie Brar
Deputy

Jennifer Johnson, OBA No. 21717
MCN No. 561
Guardian Ad Litem

MCN Community and Tribal Events

California Creek Association holds Holiday party

CMCA/*Media Release*

RIVERSIDE, Calif. — Approximately 150 Muscogee (Creek) citizens gathered for a holiday party on Saturday, Dec. 28, 2013. The location was at the Sherman Indian High School in Riverside, Calif., a historic Bureau of Indian Affairs operated boarding school.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Citizenship Board came from Okmulgee, Okla., to create new citizenship cards. They were led by Manager Nathan Wilson and worked hard to accomplish this task. Two members of the MCN Election Board also came and helped the voters, headed by Betsy Varner of Okmulgee. The California Muscogee (Creek) Association gave gift envelopes to 47 Muscogee (Creek) children.

There were guests from out of state, even some recent Florida MCN transplants. Several folks represented other Native tribes and Paula Starr, Executive Director of the Southern California Indian Center was present. The family of John and Mary Windes had 30 descendants from three generations at the party. California has accepted Muscogee (Creek) citzens for a long time and the Windes since 1937.

A transitional situation is coming for CMCA. In a short while, we will choose a new leader and board of directors. The existing board will then be able to assume 'elder' roles and graduate to storytelling status.

Mvto!

CMN seeking comments for accreditation evaluation

CMN/*Media Release*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The College of the Muscogee Nation is seeking comments from the public about the college in preparation for the CMN's periodic evaluation from a regional accrediting agency.

CMN will host a visit March 10-12 with a team representing the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association. The team will review the institution's ongoing ability to meet the commission's criteria for accreditation.

The public is invited to submit comments regarding CMN to: Public Comment on College of the Muscogee Nation, The Higher Learning Commission, 230 S. LaSalle St., Suite 7-500, Chicago, IL 60604-1411 or on the commission's website at: www.ncahlc.org.

Comments must be received by Feb. 10.

Can making classes set to begin Jan. 20

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Office of Cultural Preservation is taking names for a new series of classes on how to make stompdance cans. The next open class is set for Jan. 20 from 5:30-9:30 p.m. in the Cultural Preservation Library. Interested Creek citizens should call Johnnie Wesley at: 918-732-7733.

A healthier you in 2014

DOH Tobacco Prevention Program

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The New Year is upon us and it's that time for resolutions to begin. One of the most popular resolutions is to quit smoking. Quitting smoking is no easy task, it takes an average of 7 attempts for a smoker to become a non-smoker.

If your resolution is to quit smoking in 2014, you are in luck!

Here are a few ways to help you reach your goal.

• Gather support and encouragement from family, friends and co-workers.

It always feels good to be supported by people who care about you.

• Start by changing your routine.

If you smoke in the car on the way to work challenge yourself to do away with that. Use healthier substitutes like chewing gum or drinking a bottle of water. If stress is the cause of your smoking try having a more active lifestyle. Adding exercise to your routine is a great stress reliever.

• Recognize what triggers you to smoke.

By avoiding the triggers, you are already that much closer to quitting because you are acknowledging what causes you to smoke. If it is something you enjoy, it will be a sacrifice with a very rewarding outcome.

If you don't think quitting makes a difference that people can see, think again. Smoking causes: bags under the eyes, icky teeth, premature aging and wrinkling, yellow fingers, thinner hair. Quitting smoking cuts risk in nearly every part of the body. Once you quit smoking, after 20 minutes your heart rate decreases. After 2 weeks your lungs begin to work better. Also, your body's ability to fight off infections, colds and flu is enhanced.

If you need more help with quitting you can receive free one-on-one coaching, and/or free nicotine patches or gum by calling 1-800-QUIT-NOW.

MCN can also help you! Talk to your health care provider or call the Tobacco Prevention Program at: 918 623-1189 or toll free at: 855-623-1189.

We want to help you reach your goal of becoming a healthier you in 2014! Put your resolution into action and take charge of your tobacco addiction.

All Indian Livestock show set for Jan. 25-25

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation is hosting an all Indian Livestock Show Jan. 24-25 at the Okmulgee County Fairgrounds in Okmulgee.

Exhibitors must have an enrollment card from any federally recognized tribe and live in the MCN jurisdiction.

For more information contact Billy Haltom at: 918-732-7628.

Inauguration for MCN Council Seat B representatives held



MNN/Amanda Rutland

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) Nation Supreme Court Chief Justice Andrew Adams III swears in the MCN National Council representatives Jan. 4 for the 18th Session of the Council at the MCN Mound Building. The speaker for the 18th session is Rep. Thomas Yahola, second speaker is Rep. Robert Hufft and the sergeant-at-arms is David Hill.

Schimmel parents to make MCN appearance



Courtesy photo

Cici and Rick Schimmel at the 2013 NABI Championships in Phoenix, Ariz.

MCN PR/*Media Release*

OKMULGEE, Okla. – Cici and Rick Schimmel, parents of the phenomenal Native American Schimmel sisters from the University of Louisville Lady Cardinals basketball team, will make an appearance as guests of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation on Saturday, Jan. 18 at the Okmulgee High School Brock Gymnasium from 1-4 p.m.

They will be presenting a motivational seminar and clinic targeted to youth, student athletes, parents, school officials and the general public. Shoni and Jude Schimmel are the two sensational sisters who have turned collegiate Division-1 basketball on its ear with their talent. They both starred in their high school years at Hermiston High School on the Umatilla Indian Reservation in Northeastern Oregon and were both heavily pursued for recruitment.

In the 2012 season, they sailed through the NCAA Tournament on their way to a runner-up finish. Along the way, they gained the attention of, not only their opponents but, the entire nation. They have been the source of pride and inspiration of Native American Tribes and youth as the first two Native ballplayers to reach the heights of NCAA D-1 contenders. Both girls were awarded the prestigious Phil Homeratha Award at the annual 2013 Native American Basketball Invitational (NABI).

At that time, Shoni was representing the United States in the World University Games in Russia. Shoni is a senior and Jude is a junior at the U of L.

MCN Principal Chief George Tiger recognized this occasion to host the Schimmel parents as a tool in inspiring the Native youth of this area.

"This is our chance to present an opportunity for our student athletes to be a part something that motivates them to excel in both the athletic and academic arenas," Tiger said.

Several Tribal programs are coordinating the promotion including: the MCN Office of Public Relations, Tourism and Recreation, Department of Education and Training - Johnson O'Malley Program, Department of Community Research and Development and Mvskoke Media.

Although hosted by the MCN as an event that targets tribal citizens, any other area youth or tribal organizations are welcomed to attend this free presentation. The No. 7 Louisville Lady Cardinals are 11-1, losing only to the University of Kentucky. The Lady Cardinals are looking to avenge a 2012 loss to the University of Colorado on Saturday, Dec. 21.

For more information, call Edwin Marshall, MCN Public Relations Manager, at 918-732-7617.

MCN SRO January schedule

MCN SRO/*Media Release*

WETUMKA, Okla. — The following is the remaining Muscogee (Creek) Nation Southern Regional Office schedule for January.

Jan. 15 - National Council
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Jan. 21 - Tax Commission
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Lunch 11-11: 30 a.m.

Jan. 22 - National Council
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Jan. 24 - WIC clinic
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Jan. 28 - Tax Commission
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Lunch 11-11: 30 a.m.

Jan. 29 - National Council
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

For more information contact the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Southern Regional Office at: 405-452-1100

Teen dating violence awareness artwork contest deadline set for Feb. 28

MCN FVPP/*Media Release*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Family Violence Prevention Program is holding an artwork contest for Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month, which is in February.

The deadline is Feb. 28 and youth ages 12-18 who are members of a federally recognized tribe are eligible to participate.

The grand prize is $200 and two runners up will receive $100 each. Artwork and themes should be directed at a teen audience and bring awareness to the problem of teen dating violence as well as encourage healthy relationships and safe use of technology.

For ideas and information about teen dating violence and healthy relationships visit: www.loveisrespect.org or www.breakthecycle.org.

For more information contact Mitzi Pope at: mpope@mcn-nsn.gov or 918-732-7892.

Inside the MNN:

Parents of Schimmel basketball sisters visit MCN — Pages 3

MCN adds trolley to Transportation fleet — Page 4





Muscogee Nation News

Official publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and a production of Mvskoke Media

Feb. 1, 2014
Vol. 44, Issue 3
"Hotvle Hvse"
Wind Month

Tiger delivers annual State of the Nation Address

Principal chief summarizes administration in 2013 at MCN Mound Building Jan. 25

George Tiger/*MCN Principal Chief*



MNN/Amanda Rutland

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger gave his State of the Nation Address Jan. 25 at the MCN Mound Building before a quarterly session of the MCN National Council.

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Good morning, citizens of the great Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Second Chief Barnett, Speaker Yahola, Second Speaker Hufft, members of the National Council, Justices of the Supreme Court, Judges of District Court, our relatives, friends and honored guests.

To say 'The Mvskoke Way' is very sacred. The ways of our elders, and even the ways that our children will follow, are what is considered our way. To continue in those ways and to assure that we will always stand in those ways is our will and desire. This State of the Nation represents the great strides we have made to assure our continuation of 'The Mvskoke Way.'

Peoplehood & Nationhood

The purpose this morning is to report to you, our most precious resource, our tribal citizens of this great Muscogee (Creek) Nation, the progress and successes accomplished over this past calendar year. I prefer to use progress and success because that is what this administration set out to do and I believe with the support of the National Council, we are succeeding. This is a big change from the "status quo" way of doing business that seemed to hamper us in the past. As we have moved forward, we have continued to use the dominant themes of 'peoplehood' and 'nationhood' as guiding parameters in how we want to achieve success as a self-sufficient sovereign tribe, as well as balance those efforts with the needs of our citizens.

What I mean by these themes is that we refer to peoplehood as 'us,' the Muscogee people. It is important that we focus on revitalizing some of those things that have become dormant for us, such as our language, our history and protecting what is rightfully ours so that we never lose our collective identity. That's why it was important to this administration and Nation to file suit to address our sacred rights of our forefathers of Hickory Ground in our original homelands of Alabama and to bring home a citizen in time of need for demonstrating opposition to building over a burial ground.

In addition, it was important that we work hard to retrieve our

Tiger - 2

Emvpanyv: 'One who tells a story'

Sacred arrows, movie stuff, wild onions

Gary Fife/*MNN Editorial Assistant*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — In Oklahoma City, a pastor's claim that the state's license plates convey a message contrary to his religion has been booted out of a federal court. Oklahoma license tags show a Native American shooting an arrow into the sky.

A pastor of a Methodist church in Bethany, Okla., had sued the state over the image.

Wow, I didn't think Methodists got this picky. I grew up Methodist and nothing like this ever came up.

In rejecting the suit, the court said that the image didn't portray the man doing anything religious or that the arrow was a sacred article.

If you are familiar with the work of Apache artist Allan Houser and his sculptures, that's where the design came from and the work was titled, 'Sacred Arrow.' The court ruling said the license plate image was based on the statue but was not identical to it.

The pastor could have chosen a personalized plate or one of the other available designs and saved himself a lot of trouble. His lawyer said he shouldn't have to carry the state's message. He didn't have to.

Maybe the guy was worried about where the arrow might come down.

By the way, word has it that five more Allan Houser bronzes are being installed at the Oklahoma Capitol. They'll be on display for the year.

Hollywood is all a-flutter about its annual Oscar awards and all the trappings that go with it.

But I'm not all surprised by the Other Awards that come out this time of year: The Golden Raspberry for the worst that

Emvpanyv - 3

Inter-Tribal Council holds first meeting of 2014

Council members speak of accomplishments

Jessica McBride/*MNN Reporter*

SHAWNEE, Okla. — The Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes held the first ITC quarterly meeting of the year Jan. 9-10 hosted by the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma at the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Grand Casino Hotel and Resort in Shawnee.

Cherokee Nation Principal Chief and ITC President Bill John Baker said that together, the Council is an agent for many tribal citizens.

"We represent over 500,000 Native Americans when we sit at this table," Baker said. "How many people get to work every day to make the lives better for their families? Because that's what we really do when we help our tribes, when we work for our Nations."



Mvskoke Media/Christina Good Voice

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger spoke at the general session for the quarterly meeting of the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes held Jan. 9-10 at the Grand Casino Hotel and Resort in Shawnee, Okla.

Choctaw Nation Assistant Chief Gary Batton spoke about the implementation of President Barack Obama's Promise Zone initiative within the Choctaw Nation boundaries. The initiative aims to combat poverty by providing resources to the area.

"We're trying to improve the lives of our tribal members," Batton said. "We're hoping that they have a better life then what we grew up with."

Chickasaw Nation Gov. Bill Anoatubby described the closeness of the current ITC members.

"There's so much harmony among this group; it's amazing," Anoatubby said. "We have the right mix. We have what it takes in order to be influential and be the most powerful Indian organization in the United States."

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger spoke about recent achievements within the MCN including the tribe's acquisition of the George Nigh Rehabilitation Center (now the MCN Physical Rehabilitation Center) and economic development. Tiger praised the ITC tribes on their accomplishments for Indian Country.

"As I've always said, as Indian people, it's not about jealousy; it's not about envy; it's about being proud of your relatives," Tiger said. "Because if one tribe succeeds, all of us succeed."

The Council passed resolutions to address issues con-

Intertribal - 6

MvskokeMedia

MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

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NAJA
Native American Journalist Association

Members of the Native American Journalists Association

Tiger

Continued from Page 1

history and works of our artist so it would remain in the hands of its rightful owners, the Mvskoke people. That is the 'Mvskoke Way.'

We have had a number of strategic planning sessions, which has never been done before, that has included a cross-representation of citizens and employees from all areas of Muscogee life and government. At the same time, it is equally important that we, as a tribal government (nationhood), try to do the very best that we can to improve services for our people.

As a result, we have created a blueprint for success that will extend into the future for many generations and become a standard way of doing business. We understand that it takes direct action to improve, extend, and practice our tribal sovereignty to its fullest. It also establishes the proper context in which to move forward with new initiatives and services, while still improving current services for our citizens.

Gaming

• Groundbreaking was held for the River Spirit Casino Phase II expansion that includes a hotel and Margaritaville entertainment areas. This is a $365 million investment on the banks of the Arkansas River.

• In the last year, revenues increased from the Nation's gaming facilities.

Business Enterprise

• Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise (MNBE) continues to pursue business interests in behalf of the Nation.

• Interest on the Nation's permanent fund continues to increase. Interest on this fund was $6.3 million for the fiscal year. The Nation's permanent fund is now valued at almost $ 270 million.

• The Nation, while being a strong viable government, is a half-billion dollar corporation. Whether we want to admit it or not, we are corporate. Fiscally and financially, the Nation is stronger than ever.

Healthy Nation

The Muscogee Creek Nation continues to have Health as its top priority for its citizens. The Health Department continues to build its own funds through collections from third party claims. Because of these types of efforts, the Nation has invested in health in the following ways:

• A new Okemah hospital is currently in the process of being built.

• The Nation purchased the George Nigh Rehabilitation Center from the University of Oklahoma.

• The Nation assumed the debt on the Okmulgee Memorial Hospital and is now called the Muscogee Nation Health Center.

• The Nation also has a Mobile Unit, offering health screenings to citizens in heavily populated areas.

• Health is averaging $1.5 million a month in third-party collections which totals $18 million a year.

Employment for Citizens

This administration continues to focus on the creation of jobs for our people. As we all know, economy has many faces, one of which is poverty.

• Created more jobs, which led to adding 600 more employees in the tribal government. That doesn't include our businesses or gaming.

• More than 75 percent of our tribal employees are Mvskoke citizens.

Helping Our People

• Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) has established 175 work experience sites in 25 cities.

• In addition to the social and family services, such as TANF, the Second Chief's office assists families and individuals with general assistance, gasoline and groceries.

• In FY '13 there were nearly 19,000 tribal citizens assisted through our Social Services office.

• Women, Infants & Children (WIC) will be moving into a new building in 2014.

Economic Development



MNN/Amanda Rutland
Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger gave his annual State of the Nation Address during the first legislative meeting for the 18th Session of the MCN National Council.

• Business Development Center has advised 95 clients, assisted 24 individuals with loan packages, 12 of which are now ready with their loan applications.

• The Community Development Financial Institution or CDFI has procured $625,000 in grant funds, and $250,000 has been appropriated by the National Council.

• The National Council approved through legislation to create the One Fire Holding Company. This organizational structure allows the MCN to aggressively pursue economic development and to keep the business operations separate from tribal government. Businesses throughout the country want to partner with the MCN.

• The Nation is planning a Business/Jobs Summit, one of the largest and the first one of its kind in the history of the MCN. It will give the opportunity to promote its greatest resources, the Mvskoke people.

• Our Tribal Employment Rights Office (TERO) program has certified 107 vendors, with almost half of them being Creek citizen-owned.

• TERO has generated more than $3.4 million in contracts and procurement in nine months with 18 being Creek citizen-owned companies.

• Tribal citizens have been provided jobs through TERO certified companies.

Federal Roads Program

• More than 400 miles completed in less than two years. Prior to this administration only 600 miles were completed in the prior seven years.

• Transit & Roads received "award of excellence" for a project in Okfuskee County, with a statewide award to be received on Feb. 11.

• The number of projects built with Indian Reservation Roads (IRR) has doubled from 2012 to 2013, from 10 to 20, and the number of projects using "interest" funds has doubled from eight to 16.

• Our federal dollars (IRR) has increased by more than $1.4 million as a result of this. When you increase your federal dollars, it means an increase in interest earnings as well.

• In the last two years the Nation has spent $11.7 million on roads and bridge projects.

Developing Our Communities

• Our communities continue to be an equally important part of this administration. In 2013, the National Council appropriated more than $4.5 million to churches, ceremonial grounds and chartered communities.

• Community Research and Development will be hosting 'Listening Sessions' along with providing technical assistance in accounting, bookkeeping training and proposal writing. Currently there are 98 people employed with communities.

• A 193-page National Resource Directory is now available for citizens online.

Housing

• The Department of Housing provided homes to 47 families through the acquisition and new construction program. In these two years, that equals 82 new homes.

• That more than doubles the amount in the three years combined prior (48 homes 2009-2011.) This administration is aggressively seeking ways to improve our housing in particular innovative ideas that will allow for streamlining all facets of the program.

• Housing also built the first Structural Insulated Panel or SIP certified house in Okmulgee.

• Strategic Planning in Housing has resulted in more workshops and in-service training for homeowners.

Education

• The Creek Nation Foundation scholarship program has raised more than $75,000 through private donations and fundraising events.

• The National Council appropriated funding for a Literacy Program that is expected to extend into all schools that have MCN JOM programs.

• New Funding is available for doctorate level students program

• Increase in individual funds for college students.

• Paperless system for distribution of scholarships.

• 701 awards were processed for 2013 in higher education.

• The JOM program currently serves 16,131 students. In the upcoming Challenge Bowl, there will be close to 700 students participating. Through the advancement of the event, we now have a mastered and condensed study curriculum, now online.

• A major revitalization of the Language Program is currently underway and getting information through surveys for fluency indicators and offering classes to communities.

• The Nation's Reintegration Program received a $3.5 million grant for transitional living facilities.

• The College of the Muscogee Nation served more than 500 students, taught more than 135 courses and broke ground on a new 20,000-square-foot Student Auxiliary Services Center.

• The CMN is expected to receive full accreditation considerations in March 2014.

Interior Affairs

Parcels of land put into "trust" status has been more expedient due the joint efforts of our lobbyist, Watts Partners in Washington, D.C., and our office meetings held with the BIA Central Office.

Tourism & Recreation

• The 2013 Mvskoke Festival had a record-breaking attendance of more than 40,000 attendees.

• The MVSKOKE Hall of Fame Gala was once again a success with proceeds going to the annual Mvskoke Festival and Creek Nation Foundation for higher education.

These few highlights only represent some of the accomplishments of this past year.

Reflecting on a Successful Year

Much of the success is due to transparency, going paperless, savings in funding of benefits, reevaluations of processes in human resources and much more.

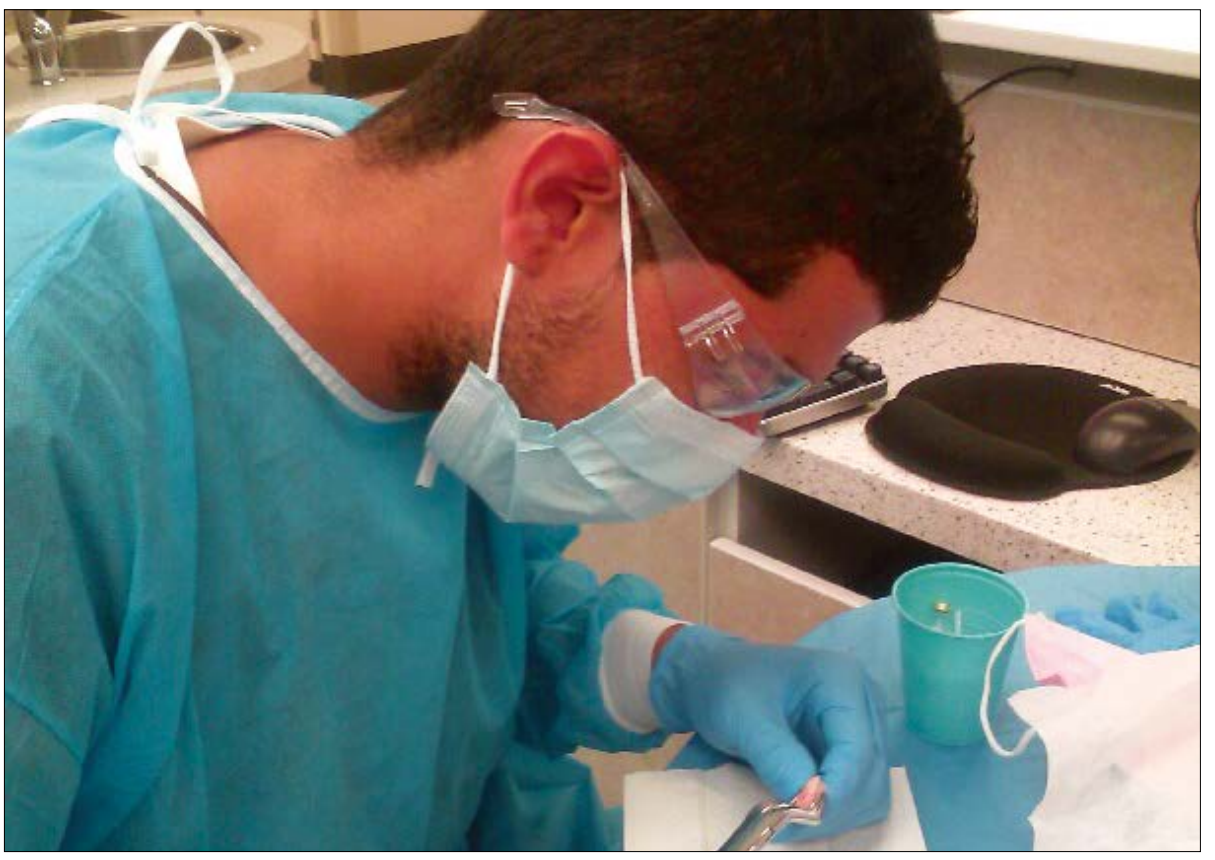
The future of our Nation is bright. The Nation will continue to seek economic development and improve services and programs. Economic progress should not be delayed, when progress is delayed, history is delayed.

In closing, the 'Mvksoke Way' has never failed us. We gain strength from those before us who set a foundation for future generations. Now, those of us who lead this Nation must continue the journey for our following generations. Our challenges lie before us, and just as it did for our forefathers, adversity strengthens us, but more importantly unity solidifies us and the will of our people.

May God bless America, may God bless the state of Oklahoma and may a sovereign God continue to bless the sovereign Muscogee (Creek) Nation!!

MVTO!

Summer Youth Program helps students gain experience



Submission

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Dimitri Mahee working for the 2013 Summer Youth Program at Koweta Indian Health Center.

Program expects more applicants this year

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Enrollment is open for the 2014 Summer Youth Employment Program. The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Employment and Training began accepting applications Jan. 2 and will continue to do so through March 31.

Last year, over 620 youth finished the Summer Youth Program and this year it is expected to grow.

"I would anticipate, with the way that it has been growing, to have more than 700 youth sign up for this year," Youth Coordinator Nancy Mason said. "The positive feedback that we get, we are expecting our summer youth program to get more and more applications with each passing year."

According to Mason, the program benefits both the summer youth employees and their employers.

"For the employees, it is good experience and opportunity to learn," Mason said. "For the employers, it gives them a good chance to be able to work with younger people. Plus we are the one who pays the summer youth, so no money comes out of their company for having our youth work with them."

Summer Youth employees will be placed in different departments throughout the MCN as well as different businesses throughout the MCN boundaries.

"We will be having our departments here at the Nation working with our summer youth," Mason said. "Also we will be having stores, schools, salons and other various businesses that will be helping us."

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Evan Tansey, who is a student at Oklahoma Baptist University, worked in the Summer Youth Program last year.

"I worked in the Mvskoke Media in the editorial division," Tansey said. "It was a great experience because I like writing articles and they showed me how to do interviews and turn that interview into an article. I am hoping to be able to write for my school newspaper and with the experience I gain, should be a big help for me."

Youth who are between the ages of 16 and 21 and a member of any federally recognized tribe are eligible for the Summer Youth Program. They must live within the MCN boundaries.

The first day of work for the Summer Youth program is June 2 and it will end July 25. For more information contact MCN Education and Training at: 918-732-7776 or 918-732-7775.

Parents of the Schimmel basketball sisters visit MCN



MNN/Chelsie Rich

Cici and Rick Schimmel, parents of the Schimmel sisters from the University of Louisville Lady Cardinals basketball team, presented a motivational speech and basketball clinic Jan. 18 at the Okmulgee High School Brock Gymnasium.

Event held to inspire Native youth

Chelsie Rich/*Project Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Cici and Rick Schimmel, parents of Jude and Shoni Schimmel from the University of Louisville Lady Cardinals basketball team, presented a motivational speech and basketball clinic to youth and student athletes Jan. 18 at the Okmulgee High School Brock Gymnasium.

The parents have traveled around the country speaking to 25 Native communities or reservations but only a few have been able to have the basketball clinic as well.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation hosted the event feature the parents as they passed through Okmulgee on their way to watch the Lady Cardinals play in Dallas.

The students were divided into two groups, sixth grade and below and 7th-12th.

Both groups learned drills to help warm the body up correctly in order to prevent injuries.

"Cici has always stressed the fundamentals," Rick Schimmel said.

The younger group learned how to dribble and shoot, whereas the older group learned ways to help improve the knowledge and skills they already have.

"There's bigger lessons to learn, not just learning how to dribble or learning how to shoot; it's about life lessons too," Cici Schimmel said. "That simulate on the court as well as off the court."

After the basketball drills both groups and their parents were brought together and the Schimmels spoke about their experiences.

One of the experiences they spoke about was their choice to leave the Umatilla Indian Reservation in northeast Oregon.

Cici was offered a high school basketball-coaching job, something she had always wanted to do.

She decided to take the job and move her family off the reservation because she wanted to follow her dreams of becoming a coach, where she was able to coach Jude and Shoni.

"You can accomplish your dreams… you have to want to do it and you have to work hard for it, " Cici Schimmel said.

Jude and Shoni are the first two NCAA Division-1 Native women basketball players to reach the finals.

"We are thankful for the support Indian country has given our girls," Rick Schimmel said.

Emvpanyv

Continued from Page 1

the film industry has produced in the past year.

And ... it should be no surprise to Natives (and the rest of the movie-going public) that one of this year's worst-picture nominees for the 'Razzies' is 'The Lone Ranger' starring Johnny Depp and Armie Hammer.

Quoting the Razzie website: 'YES, IT DOES HAVE the OBVIOUS ADVANTAGE Of JOHNNY DEPP STARRING as TONTO ... BUT with HIS DEAD-CROW-on-the HEAD COSTUME, DRIED-BIRD-POOP-on-his-FACE MAKEUP and STILTED LINE DELIVERIES, DEPP MAY FINALLY HAVE GONE "TOO FAR OUT" for MAINSTREAM AUDIENCES.'

Their emphasis, not mine. 'Nuff said. Get 'em up, Scout.

Speaking of movies, the love of my life, my wife Ramona, gave me a copy of 'Star Wars' in the Dine' (Navajo) language. Pretty cool.

I watched it (one of my favorite flicks, as if anyone didn't notice!) and had a good time.

I confess, I didn't understand a darn thing, except for two times when Luke Skywalker and Obi-Wan Kenobi greeted the astro-droid R2D2 and used the phrase Ya-ta-hey. I think that phrase is understood by nearly every other tribe in the country.

I've seen 'Star Wars' so many times, I can quote dialogue so I could pretty much figure out what the Dine' phrases were but it was entertaining nonetheless.

I had fun except when the Death Star was blown up. I'm such an Imperial.

The first mention of wild onions for dinner-tafvmpuce, was from the grocery bingo flyer put out by the Dewar Indian Community Center about its dinner January 25. Is it that time already?

We should be hearing of a bunch more dinners as the season come around and I'm ready for them, Hompetv! Yum.

- Hvtvm Cehecares: 'I will see you again.'

Thoughts and reflections: Joy Harjo

MLK Day and the struggle for recognition of Native struggles

TULSA, Okla. — Today Jan. 20 is Martin Luther King Day. It's a day to celebrate the fight for justice, to acknowledge Dr. King's legacy and the struggle by African Americans in this country for freedom and equality. I keep thinking of my cousin John Jacobs, one of my favorite relatives. He was one of the people who exemplified what it means to be Mvskoke to me. I remember how he stopped the car one day to help a turtle across the road. The turtle's mouth was red with berry juice. He gently picked him up and moved him.

One afternoon while we sat visiting in his house in Holdenville, he questioned why there was a holiday for African Americans when Indian people have no national holiday. He lived on lands given as an exchange after removal from our homelands in the southeast. Despite the United States' continued efforts to make Native peoples disappear, he served bravely in the military, even fighting in Italy during World War II.

Our lives as Native people are full of complications, difficult to explain. There is a DNA to Indian Removal that is still unwinding in us. We need to clean it up, but it's difficult when we cannot think clearly. We eat food that isn't real food. We don't get enough exercise. And our public educational systems taught us and teach our children how to get along in a colonized world, not in a real world that is peopled with animals, plants, elements and an immense sense of connection that goes to the Sun and the Milky Way. That's another discussion; yet it is utterly relevant here.

His question made sense to me then, and it continues to make a more painful, deeper sense to me now, 31 years after Martin Luther King Day became a national holiday in 1983, because nothing has changed much at all. Our children do not see themselves or hear themselves in the national story. Or when they do, we are still running from the cavalry, or we're forever dancing or playing Native flute.

There are grassroots efforts to turn Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples Day but we should not be linked with Columbus. We do not need a Columbus Day at all. For Columbus Day, children all over America still make construction paper headdresses or explorer hats to celebrate Columbus and they repeat the same false story, that Columbus discovered America. Columbus wasn't the first European to set foot on these lands and he wasn't a hero worthy of celebration by anyone, even his own people. When he landed in the Bahamas, he was greeted by the Lucayan, Taíno and Arawak people. They had no weapons. Columbus was so impressed he immediately seized their lands for Spain and enslaved the people to work. Within two years half the population was dead. He also sold Native girls into sexual slavery.

This story is repeated with nearly every point of contact by the European explorers.

I am of a generation who questioned these false American stories. We struggled and continue to work to shift the American imagination to include us as human beings. Would a national holiday for Indians make a difference? It would be a step. However, most of the shift will have to come from within us, first. We need stop seeing ourselves as subjects, and be subjugated to and by this American over-culture. Who are we as Mvskoke people? What are our own stories? And do we know them? One person can make an immense difference. Let's start here, in our community.

Mvskoke Food Sovereignty hosts lye making class



MNN/Amanda Rutland

Lye maker Frank Harjo, assisted by Rick Denny, Mvskoke Food Sovereignty Initiative Communications Coordinator, scoops ashes from an ice chest and prepares to strain water through it to produce lye during lye making class Dec. 28, 2013, at the MFSI office in Okmulgee.

MFSI continues to bolster cultural knowledge

Amanda Rutland/*Media Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Mvskoke Food Sovereignty Initiative hosted a lye making class Dec. 28, 2013, taught by veteran lye maker Frank Harjo of Salem, Okla. Lye is an important ingredient in many of the traditional Mvskoke dishes.

The idea for the class came from Stephanie Berryhill, MFSI Youth Coordinator. She had an interest in it and saw that others did as well.

"I have met a lot of people who like to cook safke," Berryhill said "a lot of those people have an interest in learning how to make lye and there aren't too many people doing that."

Berryhill has been purchasing lye from Harjo for the last 20 years. Harjo learned to make lye from his mother and has been processing it most of his life. The class covered every aspect of producing lye, from tree selection and necessary equipment to leeching liquid from the ashes.

Berryhill feels it is the best class MFSI has hosted to date. The class garnered a good deal of audience participation, with questions at every step.

"I think it was one of the best classes we have had here at MFSI, since I have been working here. I say that because of the people that came and attended. You could tell they were just very interested in the topic," Berryhill said.

Berryhill believes these types of classes are fundamental in preserving of Mvskoke traditions.

"Using language as an example, you know, you could have a million speakers. But if they are all grandparenting age, and you have no child speakers, then there is not a future for language," Berryhill said.

MFSI is an organization dedicated to stimulating and preserving traditional Mvskoke food ways through the various stages, from agriculture and cooking to community involvement.

Much like her language example, Berryhill believes the best way to ensure Mvskoke food ways continue is to serve it to children.

"You can't hand a 14-year-old a cup of safke, who has never tasted it before and expect them to want to drink it," Berryhill said. "One of the ways we keep this going is we have to cook it and offer it to young people, so they can acquire a taste for it."

MFSI is in the planning stages of holding an outdoor lye-processing workshop in the spring.

MCN adds trolley to transportation fleet



MNN/Gary Fife

A new trolley, pictured on the right with updated Muscogee (Creek) Nation insignia, purchased by the MCN Tribal Transportation Program, will service the transportation needs of Muscogee (Creek) citizens and area residents with scheduled stops.

Old-time trolley to run scheduled Okmulgee route

Gary Fife/*MNN Editorial Assistant*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — At first glance, it looks like something out of an age gone by, but it's really a new addition coming to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Transportation Department.

It's a transit vehicle modeled after the old trolley-type rail cars that used to be a common sight in many major cities, but now is typically associated to the streets of San Francisco.

Seating is on wooden benches like those found in parks and fittings for the trolley are antique-looking brass. Leather hanging straps are included, that used to provide standing passengers with an anchor point along with a folding bench and a mechanical ramp, which allow for wheelchair access.

This trolley bus will travel a circuit of governmental and commercial stops important to Muscogee (Creek) citizens and the general public.

According to Charlie LaSarge, Manager of the MCN Tribal Transportation Program, the inspiration for this addition came from seeing similar trolleys on the streets of Muskogee, Okla.

"I was in Muskogee and they've have a few trolley buses over there and I was kind of impressed with them. We felt that was something that we could run a scheduled route over here in Okmulgee that would hit all of our senior apartment complexes, go through our tribal properties, pick up people to take downtown, to a clinic or anywhere they need to go at 50 cents per ride."

LaSarge said the new trolley service would not be limited to Muscogee (Creek) citizens and would allow for passengers to plan their shopping excursions.

"We also have it opened up to the public that anybody can ride it. We'll go through town and we'll have several stops, like at the Council House, the post office, some of the main stops where we'll set pick ups. People can show up at these pick-up sites, get on the trolley, ride to Wal-Mart, ride to the doctor, ride to our clinics or anywhere in Okmulgee for 50 cents."

He discussed scheduling for the route.

That scheduled route would return to that same spot. We haven't got it down to the minute but we're looking at being able to be back at each site in an hour to an hour and 15 minutes to pick up the people and take them back to where they need to go," LaSarge said.

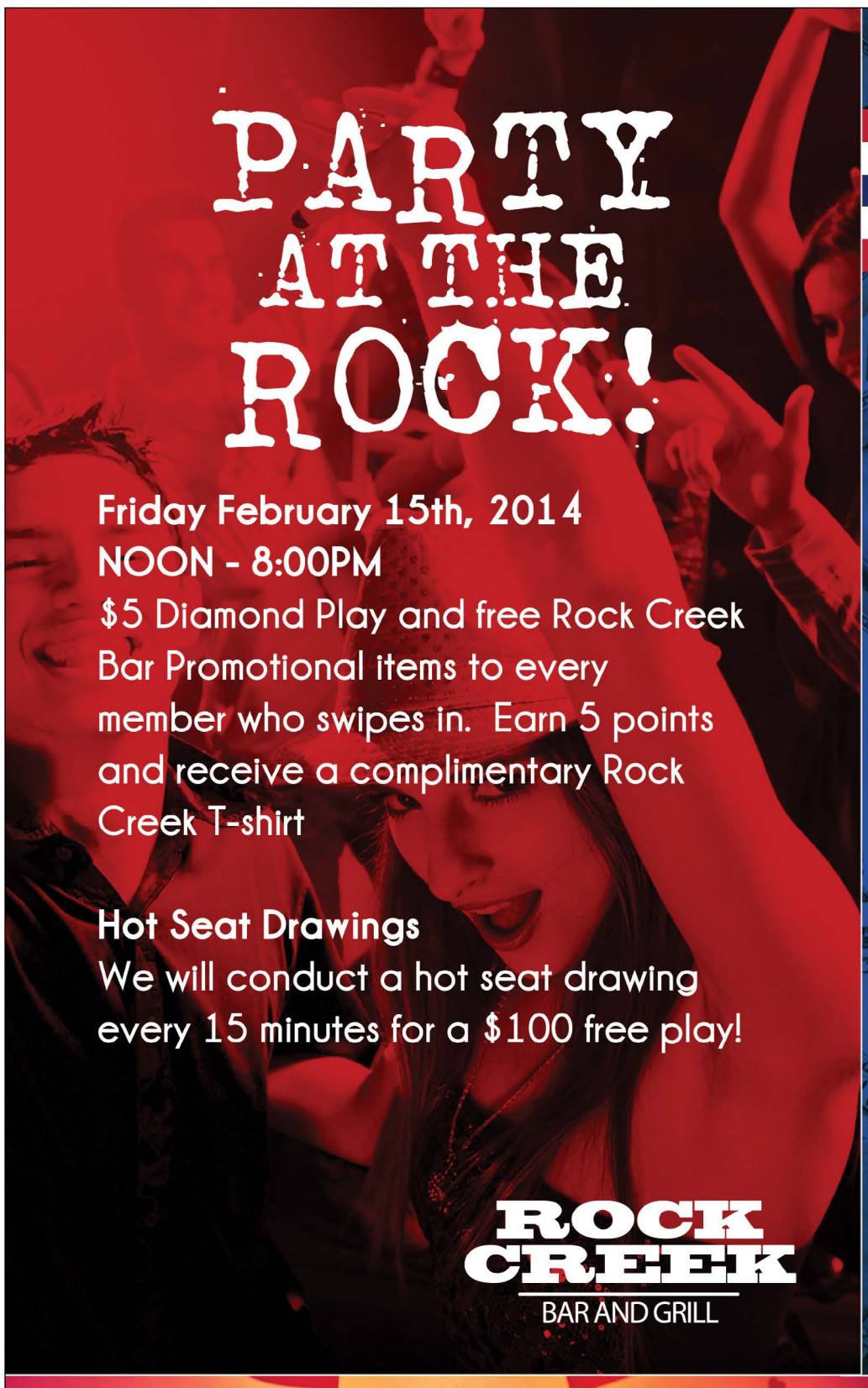
The Ki Bois Transportation Service already serves many of the area's transportation needs but LaSarge said the new trolley service was not be meant to compete. It would allow Okmulgee passengers to simply show up at the stop and not have call the provider for a pick-up. A schedule of times would be posted at each stop.

The 18-passenger trolley itself is a Chevrolet-built vehicle that normally would cost about $175,000 new. This one is a slightly used demo version, LaSarge said, that he was able to obtain for more of a bargain at $163,000.

Besides running a regular route, LaSarge said the trolley would be used for special occasions such as holidays, the Mvksoke Nation Festival, for transporting visiting dignitaries and at the MCN RiverWalk for some of the commercial development's weekend events.

The trolley still has to have the tribal logo and graphics applied and finalized, so no date has been set for the new MCN trolley to hit the streets of Okmulgee.









Friday February 14th, 2014
NOON - MIDNIGHT: $5 Diamond Play

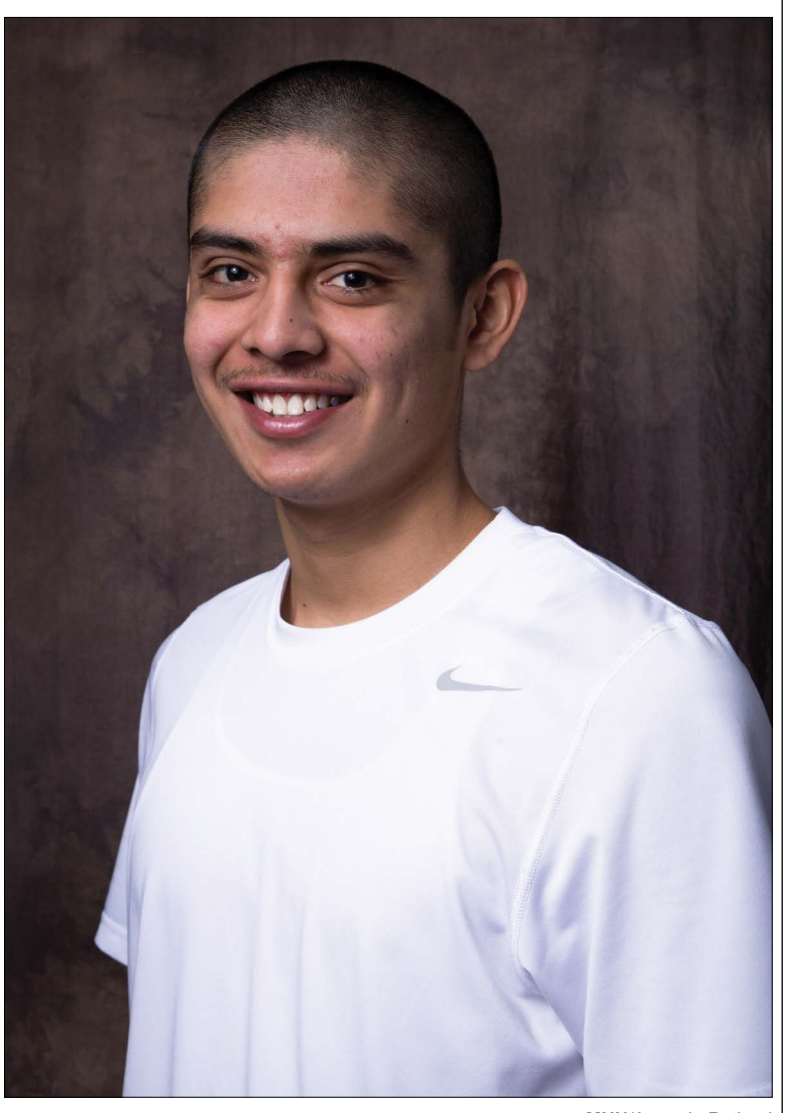
Electronic Ticket Drawings
Feb. 1st - Feb 14th: Diamond Club players earn one (1) electronic drawing ticket with every $75 coin in.
Feb. 14th: Beginning at noon, Two (one male and one female) electronic ticket drawing every 30 minutes to select a prize envelope. Prizes include $200 Free Play, $300 Cash, $400, and $1,000 Cash!

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Muscogee (Creek) mother, son discuss Marine enlistment



MNN/Amanda Rutland
Muscogee (Creek) citizen Eagle Hicks, 20, has enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps.

Family shares motivation behind life decision

Kyla McKown/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Money, power and love may be the most common motivations people strive toward but for Muscogee (Creek), Cherokee Bell, she said a good challenge is motivation enough.

"My son is just a typical kid wondering 'what can I do' and 'what can I become,' " Bell said.

Bell, who has three daughters and a son, is preparing herself for the departure of her 20-year-old son, Eagle Hicks, when he sets off March 17 for boot camp in San Diego.

Hicks, who is a Muscogee (Creek) citizen, has made the decision to join the U.S. Marine Corps for a few reasons.

"Pretty much to turn my life around," Hicks said. "Make me more respectful. Make me a better man; make me a man, period."

He listed a few more reasons.

"Mainly just to make my family proud and do something for myself," Hicks said. "Travel and I like the challenge."

According to Bell, she could tell her son was mechanically inclined from a young age and she believes that as a Native American youth, Hicks was striving to be challenged.

"That's something I think; not many teachers, schools or parents challenge them," Bell said. "A lot of Native youth want to be challenged. It's very nurturing and healthy. I noticed from a very young age my son was like that."

Bell also believes that if college and trade schools aren't for everyone, the military will provide this challenge and motivation.

"You're sacrificing your body, soul and mind for the United States of America," Bell said. "This is your country and you're going to protect it. Everything else, family values, morals and being a good citizen, all that's under the umbrella of serving your country."

Although it is tough, Bell said she is eager to see who and what her son can be.

"The future is wide open for him," Bell said. "Although very painful to be away from my son, I'm still protective but I have to detach a little bit. And I'm ready."

Being the mother she is, Bell said she does have fears for while her son is away. One of those being Native American and the stereotypes and hazing that may follow.

However, Bell wants her son to grow from this experience, regardless of the trials he may face.

"I want him to be strong enough; his spirit to be strong enough to overlook and overcome that and get through it in a constructive way," Bell said. "I want him to use his frustrations he may have. I want him to use that energy and change that into something that will build his character."

Bell is proud of her son and his decision to join the military but she is also proud that he is able to recognize and strive to make changes in his life for the better.

"I think it's mature of him to recognize, 'hey, I could get some discipline and be more motivated to behave the way a young man should,' " Bell said.

Bell is also proud of the determination Hicks is showing thus far. Although one physical training a week is required until boot camp, he has worked to complete two a week for better preparation.

She believes he will make his tribe proud while serving his country.

"He's a member of the Creek Nation but I've always told my kids you represent Creek Nation, Cherokee Nation, America and Eagle Hicks," Bell said. "That's who you represent when you walk this earth and people notice your actions and reactions."

With this kind of motivation and support from his family and mother especially, Hicks said he is more than ready.

He said he plans to make the Marines a career while having the opportunity to see the world and experience new things.

He has also been preparing by drinking more water than ever.

Hicks is of the Deer Clan.

MCN Supreme Court justices remember peer



Submission
The Honorable Justice Houston Shirley III, former Muscogee (Creek) Nation Supreme Court Chief justice, passed away Dec. 12, 2013.

Houston Shirley leaves knowledge, memories

Kyla McKown/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Honorable Justice Houston Shirley III, former Muscogee (Creek) Nation Supreme Court chief justice, passed away leaving his imprint and knowledge with his peers and coworkers.

Shirley, a Muscogee (Creek) citizen of the Hotvlkvlke Clan, was also a member of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th and 10th Circuits. He served as justice of the MCN Supreme Court for 13 years.

Throughout the years, Shirley worked as an attorney including owning his own law practice in Bixby and Glenpool, Okla. He was also a master mason of the 32 Degree of the McAlester Scottish Rite.

While working as MCN Supreme Court justice, he touched and influenced a number of his peers including former MCN Supreme Court chief justice Amos McNac.

McNac, who worked with Shirley from the beginning of his time with MCN, said he was down-to-earth.

"One of the things that stood out, was just how easily he got along with people and the people he worked with and his ability to communicate with citizens," McNac said.

McNac said Shirley worked particularly to help Muscogee (Creek) citizens and Native Americans in general throughout his years as an attorney.

Working with Indian laws, oil and gas leases and restrictive properties was his expertise, according to McNac.

Former MCN Supreme Court chief justice Mike Flud said he had the pleasure of working with Shirley for years.

"Houston was humorous in his own way," Flud said. "Houston would come and he was always interested in law, especially Indian laws and he always had a briefcase full of papers."

Flud remembers one year the MCN Supreme Court justices went to Washington D.C. for a work trip and Shirley spent a good portion of his free time researching.

"Houston was very thorough in what he did," Flud said. "Houston was a dang good Supreme Court justice and he took it very, very serious. Why he did as much research and studied as he did, he wanted to be right and I always thought he was."

McNac and Flud both said Houston was a fine individual and will be missed.



Intertribal

Continued from Page 1

cerning citizens of the tribes. All resolutions passed unanimously.

Resolution 14-01 advocates for the Oklahoma State Legislature to increase the protections of the Indian Child Welfare Act.

Resolution 14-02 supports the Oklahoma State Legislation designating the Oklahoma Native American liaison as the secretary of Native American Affairs. The current Oklahoma Native American liaison is Jacque Hensley of the Kaw Nation.

Resolution 14-03 applauds the recognition by Congress of 33 Native American Tribes through Congressional Gold Medals, including MCN. The tribes were recognized for assisting the United States during World War I and World War II as code talkers.

Resolution 14-04 supports strengthening the penalty for violating the American Indian Arts and Crafts Act of 1974. The Act protects Native American artwork and artists.

Resolution 14-05 requests funding for the Indian Health Service.

Resolution 14-06 supports the Nunes Bill. The federal legislation proposes that tribal citizens not be taxed for tribal government services and programs.

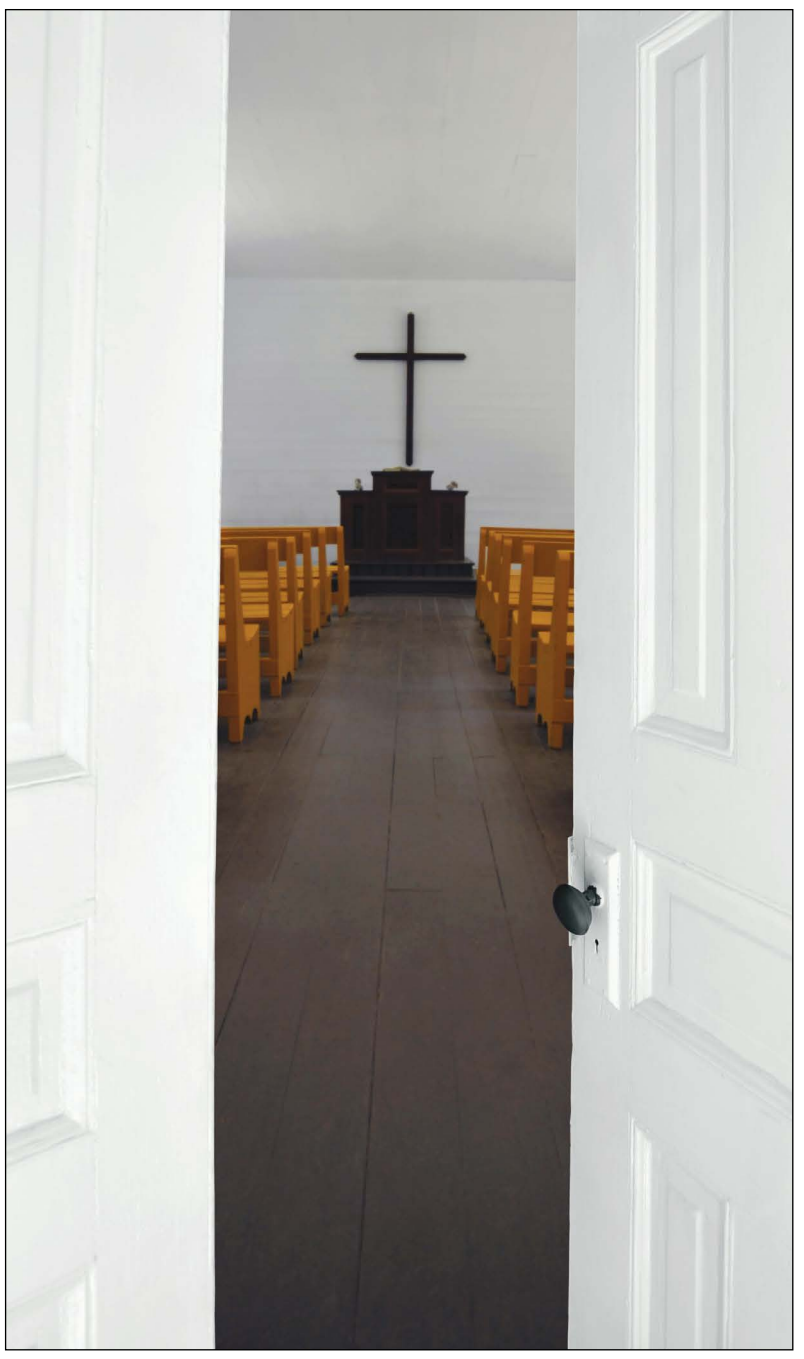
Resolution 14-07 recognizes U.S. Congressman Mark Wayne Mullin for sponsoring H.R. 2319. The approved legislation authorizes the construction of a Native American veterans memorial located at the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian.

Resolution 14-08 backs the food distribution programs of the Five Civilized Tribes for 2014.

Agency representatives from IHS and Bureau of Indian Affairs spoke briefly about updates within the departments. Representatives were not in attendance at the last ITC meeting in October 2013 because of the government shutdown.

The Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma will host the next ITC meeting Apr. 10-11 at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Tulsa, Okla.

Indian Baptist churches report decline in full-time ministers



Shutterstock

There are 187 Native American churches affiliated with the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma and about 70 churches without a pastor at this time, according to Rev. Emerson Falls, Native American Specialist with the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma.

Shortage raises concern

Gerald Wofford/*MNN Contributor*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Jan. 10- 12 were special days in the life of Jacob Jackson.

Consecutively, Jackson celebrated his wife Molline's birthday, his stepdaughter Tusa's wedding and his own ordination at North Fork Baptist Church.

Jacob is now officially Rev. Jackson.

"It was great; it was a big step in my life," he said. "I've been called to accommodate and service people in special needs. The Lord has been preparing me. It's a calling, not just an appointment."

Jackson is 59-years-old and has noticed a decline in people surrendering to the ministry.

"A shortage of Indian churches are lacking pastors," Jackson said.

Rev. Bill Barnett of First Nations Baptist Church in Seminole agrees with Jackson about the declining number of people surrendering to the ministry.

"We're really in a crisis mode," Barnett said. "We're not producing the leaders like we used to. In times past some would just say God has called you to preach, just go out and preach. We don't have trained leadership; many of our leaders don't go to seminary."

Rev. Emerson Falls serves with the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma as Native American Specialist.

According to Falls, there are 187 Native American churches affiliated with the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma and about 70 churches without a pastor at this time. Of the churches that have a pastor, the majority serves in a bi-vocational capacity meaning they have a secular job in addition to their duties as pastor.

"They want a full-time minister on a part-time salary but he has to take care of his family; just like everyone else too," Barnett said.

Native members of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma are creating programs to prepare those who answer the call.

One training program is called the Phillip Coon Leadership Program, named after the WWII veteran and Muscogee (Creek) citizen who survived Japanese internment.

"We are in a survival mode," says Barnett "if anyone symbolizes survival, it's Phillip. I have been talking with ministers out there who aren't pastoring, getting a profile on them and trying to match them up with these churches."

Falls commented on the unity of the church and specified some of the services they offer.

"Baptist churches are autonomous organizations. However, Baptist people believe in cooperation. By working together, we will use the strengths of our Indian people and churches to assist those who need help moving from decline to health."

Barnett says people come from surrounding towns to participate. He knows the commitment is demanding and doesn't expect everything to just instantly happen.

"A minister by the name of Henry Blackeby once said that the next spiritual awakening is going to come through the Native people. I would like to see it happen but at the same time we are in leadership positions and we can't just wait to see that fall out of the tree," Barnett said.

Jackson will continue to serve in his ministerial duties at Northfork. He will serve as substitute in the pastor's absence if needed but he understands that the Lord may have a different path for him one day.

"If I pastor, that would be a different calling."

Health officials, organizations debate 'e-cig' usage



Shutterstock

The recent trend in electronic cigarette usage has caused officials and organizations to study the health consequences and long-term effects of 'vaping.'

'Vaping' marketed as cleaner, safer and more affordable

Jessica McBride/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Many people have seen the blu eCigs advertisement starring model/actress Jenny McCarthy. The battery-powered devices convert a liquid containing nicotine into a vapor for users to inhale.

The liquid that the device uses, known as nic-quid contains nicotine. Nicotine free e-cigarettes are available as well. Instead of smoking, e-cigarette users refer to the use as 'vaping.'

Because of the relatively new phenomenon, onlookers have seen users vaping in places where traditional cigarette smoking is not allowed. Vapor shops have been popping up in the area, including Okmulgee, to address the demand.

Recently, the state of Oklahoma has banned vaping on state property. Other places, including Ada, Okla., have placed bans on their use on public property. E-cigarette usage is also banned on Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health property.

Some e-cigarettes have been marketed to assist with smoking cessation, as well as a cleaner and safer alternative to traditional cigarettes.

Yuchi and Muscogee (Creek) citizen Sahsha Barnes has been using an e-cigarette for six months. Barnes believes e-cigarettes are not better for you than traditional cigarettes.

"I just thought they'd be cheaper than cigarettes," Barnes said.

Although not a user, Whitney Warrior, a Cherokee citizen who is also Muscogee (Creek) and Absentee Shawnee, is more comfortable being around vaping.

"It doesn't have the smell of the cigarette… for me it is more comfortable to see somebody do that than a regular cigarette," Warrior said.

However, opponents to e-cigarette usage say that there is not enough information to conclude that this is a safe alternative to cigarette smoking.

"There's not a lot known right now and that's kind of why it's dangerous," MCN Tobacco Prevention Program Manager Carla Feathers said.

As far as quitting the traditional addiction, Feathers does not believe e-cigarettes are a good alternative.

"You have to remember that it's the tobacco industry that's selling them," Feathers said. "It's hard to believe that they'd be selling you a product that's going to wean you off of their product."

Feathers is also concerned about the marketing of e-cigarettes to children. The nic-quid is offered in candy-like flavors like cherry-limeade, bananas foster and chocolate.

"The older smokers, they like cigarettes. They don't care what it tastes like," Feathers said. "They're going after our kids."

Older generations may remember the days when cigarettes were thought to not only be harmless, but good for your health. A 1931 Lucky Strike Cigarettes advertisement states that the brand provided voice protection, which was later concluded through research to be untrue. Critics warn that the vapor inhaled from e-cigarettes may also be harmful.

According to www.esmokinginstitute.com, some of the same chemicals and carcinogens found in traditional cigarettes are also found in e-cigarettes but at lower levels.

A recent study published in the Oxford Journals Nicotine and Tobacco Research states that secondhand vapor exposes those nearby to nicotine. The study also said that more research is needed to investigate the consequences of this exposure.

According to the FDA, voluntary reports have been received showing that e-cigarettes can cause health conditions including: pneumonia, seizure and congestive heart failure. There have also been reports of the devices exploding.

Currently, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration Center for Tobacco Products does not regulate e-cigarettes because they are tobacco free. According to the FDA website www.fda.gov, the agency is expected to propose a regulation extension cover the devices.

Feathers encouraged the pending FDA regulation.

"There's a certain amount of time you're supposed to inhale it and if you go over that amount of time you can inhale the liquid nicotine," Feathers said. "There's just no telling how much of certain chemicals are going in; how much nicotine someone is getting."

> **"You have to remember that it's the tobacco industry that's selling them. It's hard to believe that they'd be selling you a product that's going to wean you off of their product."**
>
> **—MCN Tobacco Prevention Program Manager Carla Feathers**

Feathers said that many people think that they are curbing their smoking habit but can be oblivious to the fact that they may be using the device just as much, if not more to satisfy their nicotine addiction.

"I think it got ugly for awhile. They showed all of these commercials about what can happen, and now this is their big push… Once we finally get cigarettes looking bad the tobacco industry finds something else," Feathers said.

The MCN Tobacco Prevention Program does not support the use of e-cigarettes. The stance of the program is to prevent and reduce the dependence on tobacco and nicotine products.

The program supports Chantix, nicotine gum and patches as an acceptable way to quit smoking and end the addiction to nicotine. For more information on quitting, call the MCN Tobacco Prevention Program at: 918-623-1189.

Citizen puts modern twist on classic genre



Submission
'Listener in the Dark,' by Muscogee (Creek) citizen Bret Jones, features the world of old time radio in the modern era blended with murder mystery fiction.

Mystery brings pastime to new generation

Jessica McBride/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Dr. Bret Jones is a novelist, playwright and filmmaker. Jones' most recent novel, 'Listener in the Dark,' combines his passion for old time radio and murder mysteries.

Jones, the Program Director of Theatre at Wichita State University in Wichita, Kan., is the author of many creative works from books to films. One reason Jones chose a novel was the ability to express old time radio in a capacity that a play could not.

"There's all kinds of tribute in the book… In a screenplay that would really slow it down and bog it down," Jones said.

Jones is planning to turn 'Listener in the Dark' into a series of murder mysteries involving old time radio. The next book is estimated to be available sometime in 2014.

Through reading, Jones wants the reader to experience the phenomenon for what it was back in the 1930s-1940s in being the main outlet for information.

"It was really a medium that brought a lot of people together," Jones said. "It's so different from television. When it came out and really became popular it seemed to kind of isolate folks."

The main character, Tucker Niles, reflects Jones enjoyment of the relics of the past in radio. Jones said that many times he will turn on an old program and listen until he falls asleep.

Jones' fascination for old time radio comes from growing up on a farm and listening to the radio as he worked.

"I developed a love for radio really early on," Jones said. "There was radio show that was playing and episode of 'The Shadow'… I was hooked immediately. I think it's a very powerful medium because it forces you to be engaged."

When it comes to murder mysteries, Jones is a big fan. He said that the genre is, 'one of the most unrealistic forms of story telling.'

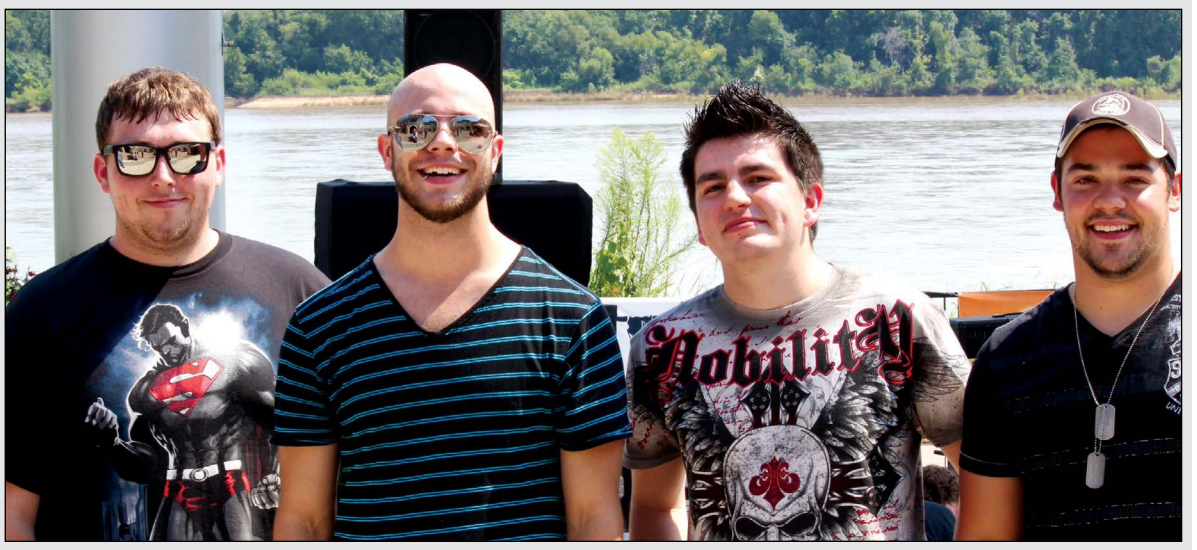
"Over the course of the book, it's solved… and it's never that way," Jones said. "I just really like the whole element of figuring out why. Why did this happen?"

Mvskoke culture has inspired Jones to write from a historical perspective.

"I'm really interested in how folks live today," Jones said. "It's much more interesting to me to focus on what is going on with us right now, contemporary stories."

'War Paint,' a play written by Jones about a Muscogee (Creek) girl discovering who she is, will be showcased April 16-20 at the Wichita Center for the Arts in Wichita.

Negative Zero turns up the heat



Submission
Rock Band Negative Zero has performed at many venues, including the Muscogee (Creek) Nation RiverWalk and Six Flags Over Texas. Left to right: drummer C.J. Williams, vocalist and guitar player Scott Miles, guitarist Robby Deere and bassist Andrew Stacy.

Muscogee (Creek) citizens rock the stage

Jessica McBride/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The cold winter weather has not held Negative Zero back from doing what they love. Though the band started with a pop rock sound, a few years ago they transitioned into the rock 'n' roll genre.

Muscogee (Creek) guitarist Robby Deere compared their sound to the popular band, The Offspring. Though some rock bands can be seen as rough around the edges, Negative Zero describes their sound as family-friendly.

"We feel like it's sloppy song writing when we cuss in songs, so we don't do any of that," Deere said. "We try to keep everything clean and have a big hook in a song but make it real rock 'n' roll."

Negative Zero has played at several venues including the Muscogee (Creek) Nation RiverWalk in Jenks, Okla., and Six Flags Over Texas in Arlington, Texas.

The band enjoys performing at Six Flags Over Texas because of the of the crowd involvement.

"It's really fun just playing for people," Muscogee (Creek) bassist Andrew Stacy said. "I like to entertain people."

Deere and Stacy hail from Okemah, Okla., and grew up together. Deere attributes his passion for playing to Stacy.

"This guy taught me," Deere said. "I've seen him and his brothers play all the time. He made me pick up a guitar so I'm thankful to him for that."

Stacy credits his passion for music to memories of his family. As a small child, Stacy remembers his grandfather playing guitar and singing in the Mvskoke language.

"As far back as I can remember my dad told me that I always enjoyed that," Stacy said. "That's probably what inspired me to start."

Stacy joined the band five years ago after returning from deployment in Kuwait with the Oklahoma National Guard.

Vocalist and guitar player Scott Miles and drummer C.J. Williams complete the full sound of Negative Zero.

The band writes their own music and performs cover songs. As far as playing music full time, Deere and Stacy hope to one day fulfill their dream.

"The sky is the limit really," Stacy said. "No better job having than the one you love."

The second album for the band will be out in spring of 2014. A demo album is currently available for $5.

For more information about Negative Zero or to purchase the album visit: www.facebook.com/NegativeZeroOk.

To listen to music by Negative Zero visit: www.reverbnation.com/negativezerook.

Truck driver remembers road trips with mother



MNN/Gerald Wofford
Muscogee (Creek) truck driver Keena McIntosh feels right at home behind the wheel of a diesel truck.

Driving diesels was special to Creek lady

Gerald Wofford/*MNN Contributor*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — At the age of 13 when most girls are worried about junior high school, Muscogee (Creek) citizen Keena McIntosh was learning to drive a diesel truck from her mother Jery.

"I told my mom I wanted to drive a truck but she knew I was too little. But she taught me anyhow," Keena said, "and we had some fun times together."

Although her path to becoming a truck driver wasn't the way Keena wished for.

Keena's stepdad Battiest Harris, died in a work related accident. With little insurance money awarded and job opportunities scarce, Jery would 'hotshott.'

According to Keena, hotshott means delivering parts for oil companies or local mechanics and businesses that needed an immediate order.

Jery was a licensed truck driver and did hauling for different companies around the Orange, Texas area near the Louisiana border.

Realizing that a diesel was needed for a bigger income, Jery purchased one and took to the road.

" 'Well, sister are you ready to hit the road?' " Keena recalled her mother saying to her. "I was excited. My mom was full of surprises."

In the beginning Keena only travelled with her mother during the summer. However, fights at school because of her Muscogee (Creek) heritage became a growing problem and soon Keena was on the road permanently with her mother.

"My mom was tired from driving all day, so she asked me to drive while she caught some sleep in the back in the cab," Keena said.

Jery taught Keena to shift and handle the wheel and brakes properly. With a few other adjustments such as pillows on the seat so she could see the window, the teenager was ready to drive on the open road.

Jery even gave her a 'handle' or nickname to have when she spoke on the Citizens Band or CB radio when conversing with other truck drivers.

"My handle was Two Feathers," Keena said.

The time on the road allowed Keena and her mother to draw closer and depend on one another.

Keena remembered a time when she and her mom were driving late at night on a delivery route in Tennessee.

"Mom was asleep in the cab and I was just driving down the road when I noticed a Tennessee Department of Motor Vehicles officer passing me on the left," she said.

"He flashes his lights and motions me to pull over and I get real nervous. So I wake mom up and she tells me to get in back and we quickly change places and now she's driving.

"We wore the same hairstyles and length, so when she pulls the truck over and the transportation officer gets out of his car and looks at her real intently, 'oh sorry ma'am I thought a little kid was driving this truck a while ago?' "

Keena says her mom coolly smoothed things over. She thanked the officer for the compliment of her looking so young and even offered to buy him a cup of coffee at the next diner.

"Mom was used to getting out of situations and knew how to handle herself; she had to," Keena said.

Keena always felt her mom was a maverick and probably the first Native American woman to successfully operate a commercial diesel truck across the U.S. and Canada.

She recalled an incident in which her mother had to deal with a male dispatcher.

"He was responsible for assigning jobs to the drivers and my mom noticed she was always being passed over and when he explained to her that he didn't trust a woman driver; my mom reared back and hit him in the face.

"My mom got a lot of flack for not getting an opportunity to drive a truck when she was just as good if not better than most male truck drivers around," Keena said.

She is grateful that her mother was tough on her as well.

"I used to think my mom was the meanest person in the world but sometimes that's what you have to be in life and it made me a stronger person," Keena said.

Keena said she's semi-retired but still considers going back into truck driving full-time. She considers herself to be blessed and that the opportunity to drive a truck allowed her to see the world while she says she was on a "paid vacation."

"It gave me a sense of independence. It made me somebody. I was doing something I was really good at," she said.

Keena hopes to open a truck driving school one day.

Booth spreads knowledge about stalking



MNN/Jessica McBride

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Family Violence Prevention Program set up an informational booth Jan. 17 for Stalking Awareness Month at the MCN Community Services building.

Participants have fun learning

Jessica McBride/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Family Violence Prevention Program aimed to educate and spread information about stalking by hosting an information booth Jan. 17 at the MCN Community Services building. January is National Stalking Awareness Month.

Participants were able to take a quiz to test their understanding of the topic and spin a wheel to win a prize.

MCN FVPP Case Worker Denise McCrary said that the event could help people understand the severity of stalking.

"I think people think that stalking is a joke… It's really not funny; it's a really serious issue," McCrary said. "No, it's not just celebrities. No, it's not mostly strangers; it's people that we know."

According to The National Center for Victims of Crime, 6.6 million people in the U.S. over the age of 18 were stalked during a one-year period. McCrary said that a majority of the time, victims are stalked by people they know.

"Usually men are stalked by their new girlfriend's ex," McCrary said.

McCrary said that Stalking Awareness Month was partly initiated because of victim, Peggy Klinke. Klinke was murdered in 2003 by an ex-boyfriend after he stalked her over several months.

"As we know from Peggy Klinke, it can end up in murder. So it is a very serious situation and it is almost always entwined with domestic violence," McCrary said.

Signs of stalking can range to being followed in person, to the utilization of technology to track what the victim is doing.

McCrary recommends that victims should start keeping records of anything they notice to be abnormal.

"It is very difficult to prove and it can cause so much upheaval in people's lives," McCrary said. "And if people are stalking you, there is no telling what they may do."

Victims are also encouraged to call FVPP for help.

For more information on Stalking Awareness Month visit: www.stalkingawarenessmonth.org.

To contact the MCN FVPP, call: 918-732-7869.

MCN FVPP reaches out to teens



Submission

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Family Violence Prevention Program is reaching out to young citizens by presenting an artwork contest to help them understand positive and negative behavior in relationships.

Artwork contest teaches teen dating violence awareness

Jessica McBride/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Family Violence Prevention Program will host an art contest for Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month in February.

Teens and 'tweens' 12 to 18-years-old are invited to submit dating and relationship themed artwork to FVPP. Prizes will be awarded to the top three submissions chosen by the judges.

FVPP Youth Advocate Mitzi Pope said that through the suggested topics and websites provided by her program to research the subject matter of the contest, participants could learn positive and negative behavior in relationships and the difference between love and infatuation.

"Respect in relationships is the most important thing," Pope said. "Also, having the knowledge of unhealthy behaviors to be aware of, so that as those behaviors start coming out they recognize them."

The contest is meant to allow participants a creative outlet, and help them connect dating and relationship lessons to their own lives, friends and family. The winners will be announced Mar. 7.

The target age group faces a set of unique challenges in relationship behavior due to their inexperience, among other factors. The program wants teens to see the full picture of destructive behavior in their relationships.

Pope said that many teens fail to realize the dangers of sharing passwords and the open accessibility that cellphones bring.

"Those topics, they're not totally in agreement with me that those are unhealthy behaviors that can turn into abuse," Pope said. "Really, technology is just making relationships a lot harder for teenagers today."

FVPP hopes to reach out to young people to help them understand obsessive and controlling behavior and prepare them for relationships in the future.

"A lot of times, the kids are getting in relationships and mimicking the relationships that they either see at home or see in the community," Pope said.

Pope said that the issue of not reporting violent behavior has been a challenge. Many times, tight knit communities and families fear reaching out to authorities.

"So I think that's kind of one of the harder things for our communities. It's just getting people to speak out against it," Pope said. "Even if it is a family issue, don't make it your hidden family issue."

For more information about the artwork contest call Mitzi Pope at: 918-732-7892, or visit: www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov/Pages/FamViolence/fvpevents.html.

For more information about teen dating violence and healthy relationships visit: www.loveisrespect.org.

Citizen survives domestic violence



MNN/Amanda Rutland

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Autaum Snyder was shot 10 times with a .22-caliber rifle during a dispute with her boyfriend, Sammy Michael Clark, on Sept. 7, 2012.

Advocate recounts incident, shares triumph

Jessica McBride/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The life of Muscogee (Creek) citizen Autaum Snyder changed forever Sept. 7, 2012. A broken relationship with her high school sweetheart, Sammy Clark, shattered in a way she never expected.

Autaum and Clark began dating off and on in 2009 and their breakups were often violent.

"The first time he would just lash out and break things… the second time he would follow me to school," Autaum said.

Tommy and Teresa Snyder took Clark in as one of their own after their daughter Autaum graduated from Haskell High School in Haskell, Okla., in 2012.

According to Autaum, she began working to support the couple, but Clark did not want to contribute and soon got depressed. Autaum would try help Clark better his life, but their relationship soon took a different turn.

"At that point we couldn't trust each other. He would go through my phone 24/7," Autaum said.

For a month, Autaum planned to break up with Clark. Autaum created a plan hoping that the breakup would go smoothly. She prepared by writing a letter asking that Clark move out and not to contact her but hesitated giving it to him.

Clark was upset when he read the letter. He told Autaum he wanted to have dinner with her to discuss the relationship.

"I felt sorry for him and I decided to go out to eat that Friday night," Autaum said.

The couple argued at dinner. Autaum noticed on the way home that her ex-boyfriend was not himself.

At her parent's home, Autaum asked Clark to pack his belongings and leave. The hour was late, so she made up the couch for Clark to sleep. Clark began to get angry and started to destroy Autaum's picture frames. After she tried to get him to stop, Clark slapped Autaum forcefully causing her to fall on her dachshund, Oscar.

"I landed on him and he started whining so I was trying to make sure he was OK," Autaum said. "I grabbed my stuff and my keys and put my flip flops on and went outside."

As she was walking, Autaum felt that someone was watching her. She turned around to see Clark with a gun. Clark pointed the gun at Autaum and fired 10 shots. Autaum's dog was killed in the incident.

Autuam struggled to move behind her car for protection. Clark came after her and beat her.

"He left me and I ran my hand across my stomach; and I felt the bullet holes," Autaum said.

Realizing that she didn't have her phone or purse, Autaum made her way back into her home and blacked out. Autaum woke to Clark carrying her and sitting her in his truck and throwing an object in the floorboard. Autaum felt the object to discover it was the weapon.

Clark drove to the fire station in Haskell, where no one was there. He then drove to the police station.

"He makes me get out of the truck and walk up there," Autaum said. "I'm banging on the door and nobody is there... There's blood all over the door."

Autaum slid down against the building and remembers feeling helpless.

"I look over to my left and there's a car driving right by. And I'm thinking to myself, 'I'm this close to help and I can't even get it,'" Autaum said.

Clark carried Autaum back to the vehicle. Instead of taking her to the nearest convenience store as Autaum asked, Clark decided to drive to Muskogee, Okla., 21 miles away.

"In the mean time I'm choking up my own blood; and it's getting harder for me to breathe," Autaum said.

Autaum was unable to walk in to the hospital; so Clark carried her in and cried for help. He laid her down on the gurney and told her not to tell anyone the truth. Autaum was determined to not obey Clark's orders.

Autaum spent five weeks in the hospital and suffered life-threatening injuries to her abdomen. Because she was also shot in the knee, she had to learn to walk again.

While women can fear being in a swimsuit for body type reasons, Autaum dreads others staring.

"Having to be in a bathing suit is horrifying because I have a scar that's from my chest to my waistline," Autaum said.

During the trial, Autaum said that the pressure of being on the stand was more frightening than facing Clark.

"I got more mad that he sat there looking down drawing on paper. He didn't even look at me one time," Autaum said.

Clark was sentenced to 10 years in prison and 10 years of probation on charges of shooting with intent to kill, cruelty to animals and domestic abuse.

Autaum said that her experience was life changing.

"If I can just help one person out there I will be happy," Autaum said.

Autaum is currently going to school for medical insurance coding. She said that she knows that God has someone that will love her and treat her how she should be treated.

After the incident, Autaum's family pledged to get her another dog.

"I named her Hope," Autaum said.

Hope was born the day of the incident, Sept. 7, 2012.

Muscogee (Creek) coach instructs team in basketball, life



MNN/Darren DeLaune
Muscogee (Creek) coach Hiyadeja Moore shoots a free throw Jan. 8 during basketball practice for the Fort Towson High School Lady Tigers.

Moore inspires team to be successful on and off court

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

FORT TOWSON, Okla. — "Push yourself girls," yells Fort Towson High School Lady Tigers head basketball coach Hiyadeja Moore. "Ladies you need to hustle back on defense."

Moore (Muscogee Creek/Choctaw) began her first season with the Tigers this fall. Overall, this is her second season as a head coach.

Moore, originally from Broken Bow, Okla., is no stranger to the basketball court. Her playing days started in Oklahoma, and she later spent some time in California before returning to Oklahoma to finish school.

She always wanted to be around basketball even after her playing days were over.

"It hit me early and I always wanted to be a coach," Moore said. "I have had some great coaches in the past and the things I learned from them from not only in basketball I wanted to pass on also. I didn't ever want to leave the game and I couldn't see myself without basketball."

Moore wants to help her students to grow, not only on the court but also in their overall lives.

"As a coach and teacher I want to see my students develop into successful and reliable adults," Moore said.

A basketball player herself, now as a coach, Moore has to look at the court from a different point of view. Sometimes she will let players perform part of her current role and ask them what she needs to do as a coach.

"I am the type of coach that will ask the players 'What am I not seeing?' or 'What plays need to be ran?' " Moore said.

Moore, like other coaches, wants a winning season every season but she understands that they need to learn a no quit attitude and that basketball is not a one-player sport.

"Some coaches have that one superstar and they develop the team around that player," Moore said. "They want to make that student their superstar and sometimes it works, most of the time it does not. I want my team to function as one unit and all be great players."

Moore has had numerous coaches who have influenced her in her career.

"Coaches such as Gary Bob Wilson from Broken Bow. Unfortunately he has passed but I always wanted to coach against him," she said.

She acknowledged that she continues to grow in this discipline.

"I am still a baby when it comes to coaching," Moore said. "I think you always keep learning something new everyday."

Moore has other inspirations away from the court including her parents and faith.

"My family has supported me as a player and now they support me as a coach," Moore said. "The Lord has given me this blessing to coach this great game and my family has been nothing but amazing in their support and words of encouragement."

Several of Moore's players talked about her coaching style.

"She makes us work hard for everything that we get," senior guard Jerilyn Baskin said.

Junior guard Deanne Payne elaborated on this sentiment.

"She will keep pushing you. She is more than just a coach to us. It is not only basketball but life in general," Payne said.

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Team hopes to bring soccer fever back to Tulsa



MNN/Darren DeLaune
The professional indoor soccer team Tulsa Revolution scrimmage during team practice at SoccerCity.

MCN makes ad deal with Tulsa Revolution

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

TULSA, Okla — There is a new professional soccer team in Tulsa, the Tulsa Revolution.

The Tulsa Revolution is a locally owned and managed professional arena soccer franchise competing in the Professional Arena Soccer League, which is the largest major indoor soccer league in the United States.

PASL has 20 pro-division teams with the Revolution being one of three new expansion teams for the 2013 season.

The inaugural season for the Revolution began this past November. The Revolution will be part of the Central Division, which includes teams from Texas and the Midwest.

"We have been working for over three years to get a professional soccer team here," Tulsa Revolution Co-Owner Shannon Clark said. "Our other co-owner Adam (Mellor) and I have been doing a lot of negotiations to get our team here for Tulsa."

When most people think of soccer, they think of outdoor matches like those in the World Cup. What is the difference between arena soccer and outdoor soccer?

With World Cup soccer, the matches feature 11 players on each team while arena soccer features six. Arena style is fast paced, played on a smaller field and the players do not get a scheduled break. There is constant movement and substitutions throughout the game.

Mellor explained why he wanted a team in Tulsa.

"This is home," Mellor said. "We love this town and we wanted to bring soccer back here and there is no other place we wanted to do that."

Clark elaborated on this explanation.

"Tulsa has one of the richest youth soccer programs anywhere in the country. There is so much talent from the schools around here and outside of Tulsa," Clark said.

One of the biggest negotiations made was in November when the Revolution entered into a multi-year agreement with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. MCN's River Spirit Casino is the other co-partner. The tribe agreed to a three-year advertising partnership with field labeling rights. The MCN tribal seal will appear on one side of the playing turf while the River Spirit logo will appear on the other.

"We wanted a long term deal with Creek Nation," Clark said. "We wanted them supporting and behind us. That is why it is more than one year."

The Revolution holds their practices at SoccerCity and home games are played at the Cox Business Center.

"We have one of the best, if not the best indoor soccer facilities at SoccerCity," Clark said. "They let us have our practices there and the place is phenomenal."

Although the season is not going the way the organization wants it to, they feel that they are taking a step in the right direction. A majority of the games have been decided by one or two goals or in overtime.

"This is home. We love this town and we wanted to bring soccer back here and there is no other place we wanted to do that."

— Tulsa Revolution Co-Owner Adam Mellor

"As far as wins and losses it has not been the best," Coach Michael Nsien II said. "The games are very close and our players are learning and getting more experience game by game. Fan attendance has increased on each game, so everyone knows we can compete with any team."

Ticket sales are increasing for the Revolution in the team's first season.

"Our ticket prices are comparable to that of taking a family to movie night," Clark said. "With a night of watching the Revolution, you get two hours of non-stop action. Fun for everyone in the family."

Mellor talked about how he thought of the team name.

"There really was no grand idea to the name," Mellor said. "It happened at a cookout in a garage and I really couldn't tell you the runner-up name was. Revolution kept standing out and in a sense we wanted to revolutionize soccer in the state of Oklahoma again."

For more information on the Tulsa Revolution visit: www.tulsarevolution.com.

NEWLY ELECTED MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION NATIONAL COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

Joyce Deere



Kyla McKown/*MNN Reporter*

Muskogee District Seat B representative shares priorities

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Joyce Deere was sworn in Jan. 4 as the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Muskogee District Seat B representative.

Up until retirement from the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs after almost 40 years, Deere said she is blessed for the opportunity to represent the people of MCN.

"When I was asked to run for the National Council, I took it as a sign that I should continue to be of service," Deere said. "I am pleased and humbled to represent the citizens of the MCN in this awesome responsibility."

Some of her work experience stemmed from her positions in real estate services, self-determination services and program coordinator for the Office of Tribal Government Services.

One of the main platforms Deere wants to work on while on the Council, is fiscal control.

"We've made a lot of purchases in a year or year and a half," Deere said. "If we could see a turn around up at Jenks at the RiverWalk and get more businesses in there, we could bring in money to the tribe. If that happens, we can provide more services to our people."

She said fiscal control goes hand-in-hand with the needs of the Nation's elders.

"A lot of elders are concerned and want us to be more conservative," Deere said. "That's what they're used to. When they see a lot of money going out and they don't understand, then they're really concerned and that's understandable."

The new representatives including Deere, were able to get their first up-close look at the tribe at the Strategic Planning meeting that was held at the Northeastern State University Broken Arrow campus.

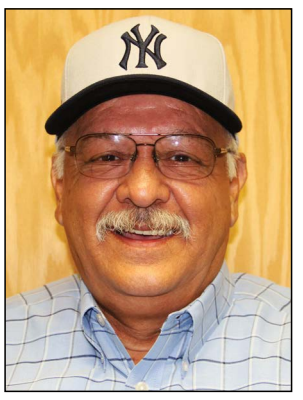
Another goal of Deere's while in the Council is to reach out the tribe's youth and give them the opportunity to develop in a positive environment.

"We're losing a lot of youth and there aren't enough programs or things to keep their interest," Deere said. "So, they're getting into areas that aren't good. Getting in to areas that won't help them in the long run."

When Deere isn't working toward the wellbeing of the Nation, she enjoys being the spectator at her grandchildren's ball games, attending Fife Indian United Methodist Church and serving her community.

Deere grew up in Muskogee, Okla., and is of the Bear Clan.

James Jennings



Kyla McKown/*MNN Reporter*

Okmulgee District Seat E representative prioritizes MCN revenue and CMN

OKMULGEE, Okla. — James Jennings has been sworn in as Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council representative for Okmulgee District Seat E.

Jennings, who served on the Council in 2006-2011, is looking forward to serving during the 18th Session with familiar faces.

"Previously, there were 26 members and now there are 16," Jennings said. "So, that's a big reduction. I know most of the people. I've served with the biggest part of them before, so I'm pretty familiar with what's going on."

With six years of experience in the Council, Jennings believes he knows what is expected of representatives.

"I served before. During that time I only missed one Council meeting," Jennings said. "I know I can't make all the communities' meetings but it'll be a bigger effort now."

He said the timing to run for Council just seemed perfect.

After 42 years of working with Southern Millwork as a master cabinetmaker, Jennings retired July 2013 and saw the opportunity to work closely with the Nation again.

Most of Jennings' main objectives for this term are similar to his goals during his previous stint.

One of those is higher education along with the advancement of the College of the Muscogee Nation and its accreditation process.

While higher education is one of his main platforms for improving the Nation, he also said he sees the opportunity for vocational training.

"After being discharged in 1970 from the Army, I went to work in 1971 and went through an apprenticeship program through the union and became a cabinetmaker, which is why I think the vocational program is a good idea," Jennings said.

Another is bringing in revenue for the tribe.

"I feel like we need to have a return on our investments, such as the RiverWalk and Stone Blade," Jennings said. "I'm very excited about the expansion at River Spirit, as well. I was involved in the original River Spirit; so I think that's a good deal."

Aside from service to the Nation, Jennings enjoys playing golf and being married to his wife, Joyce for 46 years now.

Jennings is of the Bear Clan.

Mitch Jack



Kyla McKown/*MNN Reporter*

Okmulgee District Seat E representative looks to apply MCN employment experience

OKMULGEE, Okla. — After 15 years of experience working within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Mitch Jack has been sworn in for the 18th Session of the MCN National Council.

Jack is the Okfuskee Seat B representative.

Jack has worked within the tribe up until three years ago when he took a teaching position at Seminole Nation, which allowed him to run for the MCN National Council. According to the MCN Code, 'candidate must be registered and take leave from employment with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.'

Jack's experience includes working as a floor clerk, security in gaming, teaching the Mvskoke language, working for MCN within Cultural Preservation and attending the College of the Muscogee Nation for three years.

However, Jack has technically been working for the tribe since he was 17 with the Summer Youth Program.

He said his decision to run for Council came from what he saw working for the Nation.

"There's just a lot of improvement that can be done," Jack said. "I've seen a lot of it working for the tribe that people don't see from the outside."

His highest priority while in office is to really represent the people of the Nation.

"I'm going to listen to the citizens and try to do something to meet their concerns," Jack said. "Just be a listener and be an ear and try to involve them in what they might have. And look toward the positive and focus less on the negative."

Jack's first language is Mvskoke. He is a certified fluent speaker by the Mvskoke Nation, which is why he has helped tribal programs with language.

"I didn't know how to read, write or speak English until second or third grade," Jack said.

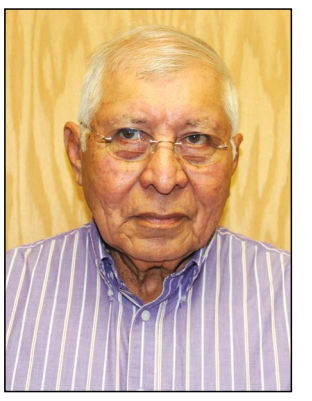
Jack, who grew up in Dustin, Okla., now resides in Okemah, Okla., where he enjoys supporting and watching his two children at their school sporting events.

He looks forward to working for the Mvskoke people.

"I'm going to do whatever I can to strengthen the Nation," Jack said.

Jack is of the Kono or Skunk Clan.

Thomas Yahola



Kyla McKown/*MNN Reporter*

18th Session Speaker Yahola discusses Council experience, changes

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A veteran of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council, Seat B Rep. Thomas Yahola of the Tukvpvtce District Seat B, has been elected as speaker of the Council for the third time.

Yahola stated in an interview Jan. 15 with 'Mvskoke Radio,' that this term would be his last as a Council representative.

He said that before the election this past November, he was hesitant to run again.

"I've been there for a long time, maybe it's time to sit back and relax now," Yahola said. "But the community asked me to run again and those are my constituents."

He came into the Council in the early '90s because of his interest in tribal government. Since then, Yahola has seen changes through his work with five different executive administrations.

He said the relationship between MCN and the State of Oklahoma has made headway, especially under the direction of current MCN Principal Chief George Tiger.

"The state is now willing to meet with the Nations once or twice a year to get their ideas on how these improved relations could benefit not only the Nations, but the State of Oklahoma, which we are citizens of also," Yahola said.

According to Yahola, the relationship between the MCN Council and the executive branch has strengthened throughout the years as well.

"And in this session we're looking forward to maintaining those ties of communication to better the Nation," Yahola said.

The representatives of the 18th Council Session discussed their objectives in a recent meeting. According to Yahola, some of these objectives included funding accountability, a relationship with Tiger and having proposed legislation in on time.

"Accountability to funds that belongs to the Nation's various programs," Yahola said. "So, I can see this year this session in the Council has really looked at accountability."

Yahola also said he believes it's not fair to the representatives to be given legislation to vote on without allowing them proper time for review.

However, this concern has been communicated to the executive branch, which sent a memorandum regarding legislation submissions to MCN program directors.

"And, hopefully we can get this information out to the citizens by email, etc," Yahola said.

Yahola has four years left to serve as a Council representative and he has some advice for the new and upcoming Council members.

"Well first, have it in your heart you want to serve the Nation," Yahola said. "Have it in your heart; it's what you want to do. Not for monetary considerations; put that aside and work for the people and the Nation."

And for the citizens, Yahola said communication is key.

"If you don't go to the community meetings, you don't know what is going on," Yahola said. "So, I encourage them to attend those and talk to their representative."

MCN Community and Tribal Events

MCN Senior Services meeting set for Feb. 5

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The next Muscogee (Creek) Nation Senior Services meeting is set for 10 a.m., Feb. 5 at the MCN Elderly Nutrition Center.

For more information contact Christy Carson at: 918-732-7765.

Writing workshop set for Feb. 5

GLENPOOL, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Joy Harjo will host the first of several writing workshops starting at 6 p.m. Feb. 5 at the Glenpool Indian Community Center.

The workshop will focus on stories, poems and songs that address themes particular to being Mvskoke.

Bring pens and paper or computers and snacks will be provided.

For more information call: 505-918-7755.

Selection for Horseshoe Bend Trip open Feb. 1-14

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The selection process for the 200th Anniversary of the Battle of Horseshoe Bend trip March 25-31 for Muscogee (Creek) Seniors, ages 55 and older is open Feb. 1-14. The random drawing will be held Feb. 17 for the 40 available seats.

A commitment to a seven day trip is required.

To enter or for more information, including futher requirements contact Muscogee (Creek) Nation Senior Services at: 918-732-7765.

Salt Creek UMC to host yard sale Feb. 15

HOLDENVILLE, Okla. — A yard, food and bake sale, hosted by Salt Creek United Methodist Church, is set for Feb. 15 from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Holdenville Creek Indian Community Center at 224 Popular, Holdenville, OK.

Teen dating violence awareness artwork contest deadline set for Feb. 28

MCN FVPP*/Media Release*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Family Violence Prevention Program is holding an artwork contest for Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month, which is in February.

The deadline is Feb. 28 and Muscogee (Creek) youth ages 12-18 are eligible to participate. The grand prize is $200 and two runners up will receive $100 each.

Artwork and themes should be directed at a teen audience and bring awareness to the problem of teen dating violence as well as encourage healthy relationships and safe use of technology.

For ideas and information about teen dating violence and healthy relationships visit: www.loveisrespect.org or www.breakthecycle.org.

For more information contact Mitzi Pope at: mpope@mcn-nsn.gov or 918-732-7892.

To print and application visit: www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov/Pages/FamViolence/fvpevents.html.

Annual Wild Onion Dinner set for March 1

HOLDENVILLE, Okla. — The Salt Creek United Methodist Church Annual Wild Onion Dinner is set for March 1 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Holdenville Creek Indian Community Center at 224 Popular, Holdenville, OK. All you can eat dinners are $10 for adults and $5 for children 10 and under.

Arts and crafts booths are available. For more information contact Doug Scott at: 405-379-3125.

Spring revival set for March 6-8

SAPULPA, Okla. — Covenant Harvest Ministries has set a spring revival for March 6-8 at 7 p.m. nightly at 722 N. Hodge Sapupla, OK 74066.

The speakers are Pastors Fred Lowe, Robert Lay Jr. and Danny Faulkner.

MCN National Day of Prayer set for April 5

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Day of Prayer and Fasting has been set for April 5 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the MCN Mound Building. Everyone is invited.

Seeking Native arts and crafts

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Local citizen looking to purchase wholesale authentic Native made goods.

Those interested should contact Donna at: 918-361-0749.

CMN seeking comments for accreditation evaluation

CMN*/Media Release*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The College of the Muscogee Nation is seeking comments from the public about the college in preparation for the CMN's periodic evaluation from a regional accrediting agency.

The public is invited to submit comments regarding CMN to: Public Comment on College of the Muscogee Nation, The Higher Learning Commission, 230 S. LaSalle St., Suite 7-500, Chicago, IL 60604-1411 or on the commission's website at: www.ncahlc.org. Comments must be received by Feb. 10.

Symposium on Muskogean history set for March 5-7

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A symposium on Muskogean history and culture is set for March 5-7 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Mound Building on the MCN Tribal Complex.

Everyone is invited to attend this event hosted by the MCN Department of Cultural Preservation.

Annual Wild Onion Dinner Set for March 22

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Concharty United Methodist Church Annual Wild Onion Dinner is set for March 22 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at 19040 Garfield Rd., Okmugee, OK.

The price is $10 for adults including to go plates and children 10 and under cost $6.

MCN DOH Children's Dental Screening set for Feb. 28

WETUMKA, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health will provide a dental screening and fluoride varnish application Feb. 28 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Wetumpka Indian Health Center for qualified children who are a registered patient or eligible for registration at an MCN Health facility.

The services will be provided from the Mobile Clinic. For more information or to pre-register call: 918-752-8182.

Sour cornbread class set for Feb. 8

MFSI*/Media Release*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A sour cornbread cooking class, followed by a discussion, will be held Feb. 8 at Mvskoke Food Sovereignty Initiative office beginning at 10 a.m.

The MFSI offices are located at the corner of 7th and Grand streets in downtown Okmulgee (next door to KOKL radio station), 100 E. 7th St., Suite 101. To sign up for the class or for more information, contact MFSI staff members Stephanie Berryhill or Ric Denney at: 918-756-5915. Everyone is welcome to attend the training.

Heroes of Hope Summit set for April 3

MCN DOH*/Media Release*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Behavioral Health Program invites you to the Third Annual Native Heroes of Hope Youth Summit. We are creating sessions that focus on leadership skills and how to develop a happy, healthy and stable lifestyle.

Please make plans to joins us at this year's Heroes of Hope Summit, "Doing Good Does You Good," hosted at the Tulsa Air & Space Museum.

For more information, contact Lindsley Harry or Natalie Barnett at the Sapulpa Behavioral Health Office 918-224-9307.

Event available for 7th-10th graders and limited to 150 youth plus chaperones. Registration coming soon. We look forward to seeing you in April!

MCN SRO February schedule

MCN SRO*/Media Release*

WETUMKA, Okla. — The following is the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Southern Regional Office schedule for February.

Feb. 3 - Summer Youth
1-5 p.m.

Feb. 4 - Tax Commission
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Lunch 11-11: 30 a.m.

Feb. 5 - Citizenship
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Feb. 11 - Tax Commission
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Lunch 11-11: 30 a.m.

Feb. 14 - Women Infants and Children clinic
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Feb. 17 - Summer Youth
1-5 p.m.

Feb. 18 - Tax Commission
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Lunch 11-11: 30 a.m.

Feb. 25 - Tax Commission
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Lunch 11-11: 30 a.m.

Feb. 28 - Women Infants and Children clinic
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

For more information contact the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Southern Regional Office at: 405-452-1100.

MCN Supreme Court elects new officers

Media Release

OKMULGEE, Okla. — While in regular session Nov. 15, 2013, in accordance with Article VII, Section 4, of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Constitution and long-standing custom, the MCN Supreme Court selected a new chief justice and vice-chief justice to serve as the court's administrative officers for calendar year 2014.

Justice Andrew Adams III was unanimously selected by the participating justices to serve a one-year term as chief justice.

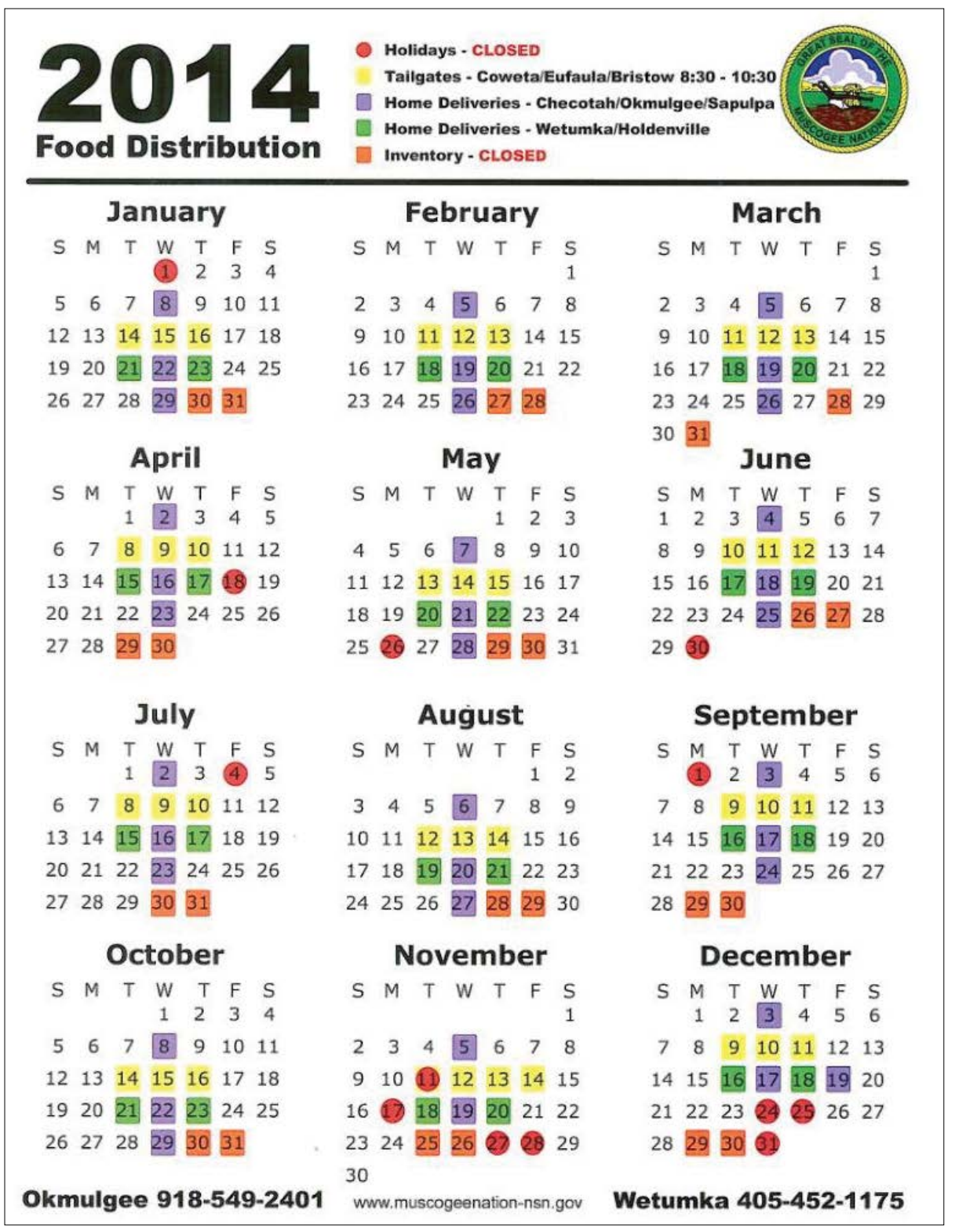
Justice George Thompson Jr. was unanimously selected by the participating justices to serve a one-year term as vice-chief justice. Both terms commenced Jan. 1, 2014.

Adams is a founding member of Hogen Adams PLLC in St. Paul, Minn., a firm specializing in Indian law.

He was nominated and confirmed to the MCN Supreme Court in January 2012 and served as vice-chief justice during the 2013 term.

He is a veteran of the U.S. Air Force and retired after serving for 28 years with the City of Tulsa Engineering Services.

Thompson has served for over 40 years as Mekko of the Hickory Ground Tribal Town and was nominated and confirmed to the MCN Supreme Court in February 2013.



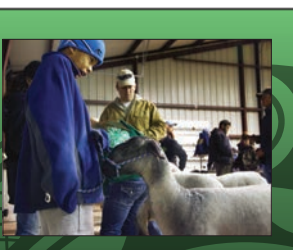
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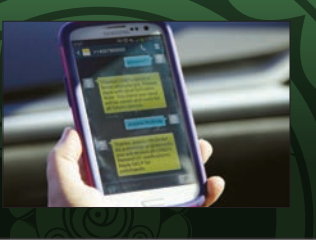
MCN hosts all Indian Livestock Show

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Text alert system to update citizens

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Muscogee Nation News

Official publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and a production of Mvskoke Media

Congressional Gold Medal of Honor returns to MCN

Feb. 15, 2014
Vol. 44, Issue 4
"Hotvle Hvse"
Wind Month

Ceremony held to honor Code Talkers

Chelsie Rich/*Project Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) Nation Second Chief Roger Barnett held a ceremony Jan. 29 at the MCN Executive Office for the transfer of the Congressional Gold Medal of Honor, awarded to the Muscogee (Creek) Code Talkers, to the MCN for display at the MCN Veterans Affairs Services Office.

In November 2013, a Congressional Medal ceremony was held at the U.S. Capitol to honor Native American Code Talkers from many tribes who served during WWI and WWII.

MCN was one of 33 tribes in attendance in Washington, D.C. to receive the medals.

There have been two Muscogee (Creek) citizens who were identified as Code Talkers.

Barnett, who is a veteran, shared his feelings about the transfer of the medals.

"It was just an overall, overwhelming feeling in itself in receiving and bringing the medals home, back to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation," Barnett said. "It was probably one of the most significant times of my life."



MNN/Chelsie Rich

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Veterans Affairs Service Office Director Ken Davis with the Congressional Gold Medal of Honor awarded to the Muscogee (Creek) Code Talkers.

Ken Davis, MCN VASO Director, spoke about the two Muscogee (Creek) Code Talkers during the Jan. 29 event.

"It was absolutely amazing," Davis said.

The U.S. Department of the Army contacted the MCN to identify who the Muscogee (Creek) Code Talkers were.

The MCN VASO began research to try and find more information about the Talkers and encountered difficulties because their documents burned in a fire in 1973.

However, they did find information that did in fact identify the citizens as Code Talkers.

Since there were only two, it is more than likely that one Talker was a forward observer and the other one stayed back at the fire direction center.

"The history behind our Muscogee Veterans is phenomenal… we earned every single medal of valor," Davis said.

MCN Principal Chief George Tiger and Barnett expressed appreciation for the Muscogee (Creek) veterans.

"Adversity is always strengthen us and I think this is a part of that as Muscogee (Creek) Nation," said Tiger.

Ceremonial grounds funding approved during Council session

Additional appropriation passes for Koweta Food Distribution Center

Kyla McKown/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A quarterly session of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council was held Jan. 25 at the MCN Mound Building in Okmulgee.

The Council addressed the following legislation:

• NCR 14-002 Approving the legal services agreement between the MCN National Council and Fletcher Law PLLC. Rep. Robert Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

• TR 14-001 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs application for a business lease on restricted property regarding Okmulgee Indian senior citizens operating the gift shop within the MCN Tribal Complex. Rep. Proctor sponsored the resolution, which was postponed until the Feb. 22 regular session.

• TR 14-003 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of understanding between the MCN and Northeastern State University. Rep. Dode Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

• TR 14-005 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a contract between owner and contractor with A&A Asphalt Inc. for the completion of the Tulsa Community Walking Trail Project. Rep. Mark Randolph sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

• TR 14-007 Authorizing the principal chief to execute an evaluation report application with ICC Evaluation Service for an evaluation of the Nation's structurally insulated panels. Rep. Adam Jones spon-

Council - 4

Muscogee (Creek) Nation prepares for fire season

Tiger, EMT address procedure for bans, prevention

Gary Fife/*MNN Editorial Assistant*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — With high winds and dry ground conditions, parts of Oklahoma and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation have already seen grass fires and the fire season is just beginning. Meteorologists at the National Weather Service did not predict relief anytime soon.

Burn bans are in effect in Okmulgee, Mcintosh, Creek, Seminole, Rogers and Payne Counties. Additionally Canadian, Cotton, Pittsburg and Stephens Counties have issued burn bans because of the conditions. But a ban has not been issued for the MCN so far this year.

MCN Emergency Management Supervisor James Nichols reports that MCN lands have not been part of the widespread fires around central and northeastern Oklahoma so far. But, he said conditions don't look good.



MNN/Gary Fife

Grass fires can occur almost anywhere, including this location near a fire station in Winchester, Okla.

"The drought doesn't look very good. It's cold and there may be some precipitation, but not enough until the wet season. This fire season is going to go on for sometime.

"It's not as bad as 2013, but there is a lot of fuel on the ground. It's going to be a rough fire season, definitely," Nichols said.

According to Nichols, his team will stay on alert, monitoring the situation, staying in contact with local and state agencies and offering assistance if needed. He suggested that local residents prepare their properties by removing flammable materials, clutter, check their water sources and keep their grass short.

According to state and federal sources, a 'red flag' fire warning covers the entire northwestern half of Oklahoma and extends into east-central areas of the state. Grassfires were reported in central and northeastern Oklahoma.

Under a burn ban in Oklahoma, it is against the law to set a grass or wildfire, build a campfire or burn trash. Anyone convicted could face a fine of up to $500 and a year in the county jail.

The MCN itself is not under a burn ban as of the end of January.

MCN Principal Chief George Tiger cautioned Muscogee (Creek) citizens to take

Fire - 2

MvskokeMedia

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MCN hosts All Indian Livestock Show



MNN/Amanda Rutland

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation 4-H Department hosted a livestock show Jan. 24-25 for Native American 4-H and Future Farmers of America exhibitors who live within the MCN jurisdiction.

Livestock herd into Okmulgee

Jessica McBride*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The first annual Muscogee (Creek) Nation All Indian Livestock Show took place Jan. 24-25 at the Okmulgee County Fairgrounds in Okmulgee.

Native American 4-H and Future Farmers of America exhibitors presented their lamb, goat, swine and heifer projects to be judged for market and breeding quality. Exhibitors were required to live within the MCN jurisdiction.

Weight class winners received ribbons and second and third place overall winners in each species received Pendleton blankets. Grand champion overall winners in each species received a laptop.

Considering the short time frame in which the show was planned, MCN 4-H Program Project Manager Billy Haltom said that the exhibition was a success.

"The show was outstanding. We figured that if we had between 75 and 100 pigs we would be doing good, and we had 114," Haltom said. "As far as numbers, we had a lot of representation there from the Creek Nation 4-H."

MCN Tax Commissioner and Oklahoma State Rep. Jerry McPeak served as the judge for all species. Working as a livestock judge for many years, McPeak said that he recognized kids, parents and grandparents at the show.

McPeak appreciated being chosen as the judge for the first annual event.

"Honored. Really, sincerely honored," McPeak said.

Haltom said that McPeak was chosen for several reasons, including his work with the participants to help them improve.

"Jerry is a nationally known livestock judge and has been for years… He was really a great draw," Haltom said. "He spends a lot of time with the kids. I couldn't have asked for a better person especially for this first time."

The MCN 4-H Program plans on hosting a show each year and to move the location to county facilities around the MCN jurisdiction.

"This being our first show we're taking a few baby steps at a time. We are looking to expand and get a little bit bigger each year," Haltom said.

Lamb show winners: Bronze Overall - Hailey Varnell, Reserve Champion Overall- Hailey Ashwood and Grand Champion Overall- Paike McNiel.

Goat show winners: Bronze Overall - Cheyenne Robison, Reserve Champion Overall- Alex Anderson and Grand Champion Overall- Ceejay Robison.

Swine show winners: Bronze Overall - Zachary Ilbery, Reserve Champion Overall- Brooklyn Herriman and Grand Champion Overall- Sadie Varner.

Heifer show winners: Bronze Overall - Jaylynn Peck, Reserve Champion Overall- Cayden Ledbetter and Grand Champion Overall- Dalton Cantrell.



MNN/Jessica McBride



MNN/Amanda Rutland

Fire

Continued from Page 1

necessary steps to protect themselves in light of present conditions and the past record of fires in the area. A past declaration, he said did take ongoing cultural ceremonies into consideration.

"Well, two years ago I did issue a burn ban only because of the devastation of some of the properties in Creek County," Tiger said. "One of the things I was hesitant about during that time was because it was the latter part of the season for our ceremonial grounds was to really issue a burn ban. We did issue one with the clarification of not hampering our ceremonies to continue."

He talked about the issue in the context of the MCN's relationship with the state.

"It's ironic that when we were negotiating our compact for tobacco two years ago; that this came up," Tiger said. "I stood my ground if you will; to let the governor know that we weren't going to consider anything in terms of burn bans in any of the compacts that we may negotiate with the State of Oklahoma."

He added, that he put his faith in the tribe's ability to deal with the situation but acknowledged that the dangers were there again this year.

"We're really now in the season again of being dry, high winds; there have been burnings again in Creek County near Mannford in the last couple of days," Tiger said. "Of course, that's being watched very carefully by our emergency management team."

According to Tiger, a fire is central to traditional Mvskoke ceremonies and must be allowed and added that he was confident that the traditional leaders could and would take the appropriate steps.

"Actually, they do a great job of monitoring that themselves," he said. "They have the firekeepers and tvstvnvke (warriors) that are very knowledgeable about how to take care of their fire. So, it's not really an issue as far as I'm concerned at our ceremonial grounds because of how they take care."

If fire conditions intensify in the coming months, Tiger said the tribe would consider issuing a burn ban.

"Yes, it most certainly would be considered. You know; we've been lucky. I'm going to say that we've had moisture on the ground and those things were really an issue. Then all of a sudden we've had dry air; we've had high winds and once again.

As the red flags are being raised about burning and those bans are taking place, we know that in between the latter part of winter and the start of spring are very crucial in terms of dry vegetation; in terms of the ground being dry as well.

"So, you know, those are the considerations we have and as I said earlier any bans like that; we certainly monitor it through our emergency management group. Then when those are issued, it's for the purpose of protecting everyone involved."

MCN telephony to expand network



MNN/Amanda Rutland
The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Telephony Department makes day-to-day business possible for the MCN. Telephony helps the digital infrastructure of MCN expand along with the physical property of the Nation.

Industrial Park to provide digital services

Amanda Rutland/*Media Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Telephony: the transmission of sound or data used to communicate over a distance not visible to the naked eye. Muscogee (Creek) Nation Telephony is a three-person department that provides and maintains telephone and Internet services to a majority of the MCN, approximately 900 customers in all.

With MCN having an in-house telephony provider, it affords tribal entities a cheaper alternative to other providers. According to Telephony Department Manager Ted Tamage, the department has been running fiber optic cable since the end of December 2013, to join the MCN Industrial Park to the existing telephony network, which includes the MCN Tribal Complex and the College of the Muscogee Nation.

The Industrial Park is the future site of the new MCN Transportation Department building, Telephony office and the facilities for the proposed compressed natural gas venture. The expanded services would also cover the Mvskoke Dome Building on the Claude A. Cox Omniplex.

"Basically, we are trying to stay ahead of the game, get all the communications ran in here; so when they are ready for them, they won't have to wait for data and phone service," Telephony Technician Haden Dunn said.

This project has been three years in the making. It was made possible by MCN National Council Amendment 13-111, giving Telephony a $143,082 special appropriation.

"Our money that we operate on comes from the rental of the telephones. We get no subsidy from the tribe. We get no subsidy from the government," Tamage said, "which is why the special appropriation from The National Council was such a necessity."

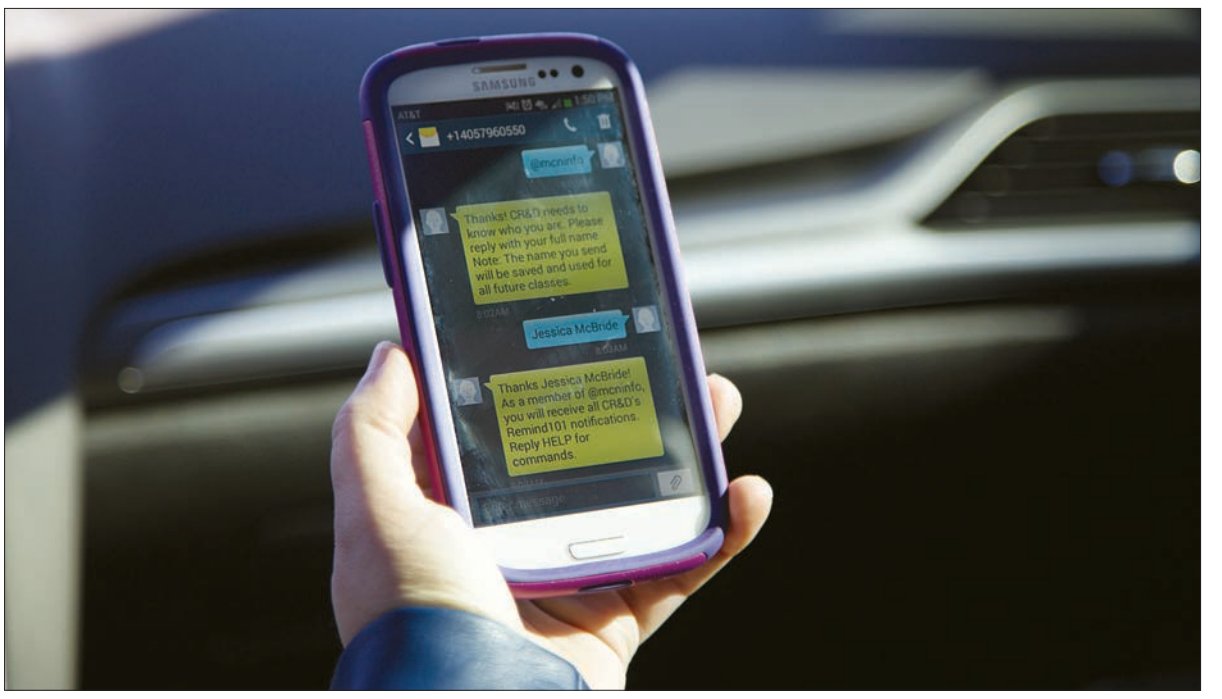
Having telephony service is essential for day-to-day tribal business, not only to make calls and send emails, but also to monitor security cameras and even remotely shut down certain MCN locations.

Tamage hopes to expand coverage further out to other locations within the MCN tribal jurisdiction. He said his ultimate goal is to complete a 352-mile fiber optic networking ring that would bring the Nation together on to one network.

"Of course, we are tying all of this in, having our own network," Dunn said. "Our main goal is to place this fiber as many places as we can; when it's possible. That way we can provide to outside customers besides our Creek Nation."

Tamage estimated that service to the industrial park will be up and running by Jan. 24.

Text alert system to update citizens



MNN/Amanda Rutland
The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Community Research and Development Department has utilized a text alert system to communicate with citizens about upcoming events.

Events to be broadcast throughout area

Jessica McBride/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — To address communication issues felt by Muscogee (Creek) community members, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Community Research and Development has initiated the use of a text alert system.

The system allows users to register to receive alerts via cellphone text messages. Though the registration is free, users and CR&D warn that standard text messaging rates will apply depending on the user's contract with their cellphone provider.

Marcy Wakeford, Community Finance Officer, said that the notifications allow citizens to be aware of events and offers.

"A lot of people now have phones where they can text," Wakeford said. "And then you can click a link and it will take you to a webpage; or maybe it's just saying 'call PR for more information."

Remind 101, the internet-based text alert system chosen to send the messages, was originally intended for the use of teachers and students. The system is double blind, allowing the subscriber to remain anonymous and CR&D to not receive responses to the texts.

Wakeford said that the alert system could cure the problem of citizens not being aware of events and promotions going on within the tribe.

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Carol Williams, a subscriber, likes that she can keep updated on tribal happenings and receives information about what is going on before it happens.

"I think that it is a new and innovative way to get the communication out to Creek citizens," Williams said.

According to CR&D Manager, Sarai Geary, 95 people have registered to receive the alerts as of Jan. 29.

CR&D hopes to be able to tailor alerts to subscribers' specific interests.

"Once we get enough people signed up and on our lists, we hope to be adding some more specific groups; but right now we're just trying to get as many people as we can on the informational list," Wakeford said.

To sign up to receive alerts, text @mcninfo to: 405-796-0550.

For more information about the alert system, or to request an alert to be sent out, contact MCN Community Research and Development at: 918-732-7963.

MCN fosters higher education opportunity



MNN/Amanda Rutland
MCN Higher Education Department partners with universities offering online courses to improve education opportunities for Muscogee (Creek) citizens.

MCN Higher Ed forges alliance with university

Amanda Rutland/*Media Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Higher Education Department hosted an informational function known as Lunch and Learn Jan. 7 at the MCN Mound Building. The intent was to educate citizens and employees about the opportunities with Grand Canyon University, a private non-denominational Christian university located in Arizona.

The collaboration will grant the Nation's citizens and employees a tuition discount to attend online courses through GCU. MCN Principal Chief George Tiger signed an initiative October 2013, which grants a 10 percent tuition discount.

Emmanuel Bezzell Manager of the Higher Education Department hopes this opportunity will inspire Muscogee (Creek) citizens to further their education.

"All of the opportunities our students have, we want them to take full advantage of it. The ultimate goal is for them to be successful and to be self-independent and it starts with education," Bezzell said.

Michael Pearcy National Tribal Liaison for GCU was on site to talk about course offerings and answer questions. One of the facts Pearcy presented is that tuition cost for GCU has not increased in four years.

"The whole point behind the partnership is to help folks get where they want to go as expeditiously as possible," Pearcy said "Grand Canyon's job is not to replace any other university or any other partner they may have but simply provide additional options for the tribal community."

Partnerships with higher education institutions have proven successful in the past.

"A lot of our employees were able to earn degrees through Bacone; that shows the great partnership we had with that school," Bezzell said.

Traditional on campus classes are not always possible for working adults or for students who have children. Bezzell said the online course option is one aspect that makes the partnership with GCU favorable.

The MCN Higher Education Department is working on future partnerships with Northeastern State University, University of Phoenix and Tulsa Community College.

MCN hosts roundtable for Okmulgee County businesses



MNN/Kyla McKown
OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation hosted a business roundtable for Okmulgee County businesses Feb. 5 at Stone Blade Restaurant and Bar in Okmulgee to present what the MCN has accomplished in business and the Nation's strategic initiatives for the future.

COUNCIL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

sored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

• TR 14-008 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a bank card merchant membership application and merchant agreement with Transfund for credit card merchant services at the MCN Department of Health facilities. Rep. James Jennings sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

• TR 14-009 Authorizing the principal chief to execute agreements between the MCN DOH and Central Technology Center. Jennings sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

• NCA 14-004 Authorizing the expenditure of future proceed funds generated by the MCN Physical Rehabilitation Center for the purpose of funding the operation of the MCN Physical Rehabilitation Center. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

• NCA 14-005 Authorizing the expenditure of grant funds awarded to the MCN DOH for dental support services. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

• NCA 14-006 Authorizing the expenditure of the MCN DOH investment funds for the purchase of electronic health/medical record systems and data retention software services from Cerner Systems for the MCN Physical Rehabilitation Center, MCN Medical Center and the Creek Nation Community Hospital. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

• NCA 14-007 Authorizing the expenditure of future proceed funds generated by the MCN Long-term Acute Care Center for the purpose of funding the operation of the MCN Long-term Acute Care Center. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

• NCA 14-008 Appropriating $71,769.12 for the construction of the Koweta Food Distribution Center located in Coweta, Okla. Randolph sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.



MNN/Amanda Rutland

Newly-elected Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Speaker, Thomas Yahola, during the first meeting of the 18th Council Session.

• NCA 14-011 Authorizing a special appropriation of $3,000 to Oklahoma City Muscogee (Creek) Association. Reps. David Hill, Frank Coachman, Lucian Tiger and Hufft sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

• NCA 14-012 Authorizing a special appropriation of $24,476 to Middle Creek No. 2 Baptist Church. Hufft, Hill and Randolph sponsored the amendment, which was postponed indefinitely.

• NCA 14-013 Authorizing the expenditure of grant funds from the U.S. Department of Education Grant Program to the MCN Vocational Rehabilitation Program. Reps. Shirlene Ade, Coachman and Jennings sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

• NCA 14-014 Appropriating $86,210 matching funds toward a grant awarded to the MCN DOH Vocational Rehabilitation Program. Ade and Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

• NCA 14-015 Authorizing the expenditure grant funds awarded by the Oklahoma State Department of Health Hospital Preparedness Program funds to the MCN DOH for the Creek Nation Community Hospital, the MCN Medical Center, the MCN Physical Rehabilitation Center, the MCN Emergency Medical Services and the MCN Skilled Nursing Facility. Ade and Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

• NCA 14-016 Authorizing the expenditure of future proceed funds generated by the MCN Medical Center for the purpose of funding the operation of the MCN Medical Center. Ade and Jennings sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

• NCA 14-017 Authorizing a supplemental appropriation of $85,182 to the Museum and Cultural Center Departments fiscal year 2014 budget for the MCN to participate in the Horseshoe Bend Bicentennial Commemoration in Daviston, Ala. Reps. Joyce Deere, Pete Beaver, Hill, Coachman and Proctor sponsored the amendment, which passed 10-5 with Reps. Mitch Jack, Randolph, Tiger, Ade and Barnett voting against it.

• NCA 14-018 Authorizing a donation of $85,735 to the family of Phillip Deere for the construction of a round house. The legislation required a two-thirds majority vote to pass pursuant to NCA 10-032. Rep. David Nichols, Coachman and Randolph sponsored the amendment, which failed 10-5 with Jennings, Proctor, Ade, Beaver and Deere voting against it.

• NCA 14-019 Authorizing a donation of $19,725 to the town of Clearview, Okla. Rep. Frank Coachman sponsored the amendment, which died without a second motion to consider.

• NCA 14-020 Authorizing a special appropriation of $587,023.61 to purchase tractors and related equipment for 13 Muscogee (Creek) Ceremonial Grounds. Hill sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

MCN administration compares goals with citizens through meeting



MNN/Chelsie Rich

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger (left), MCN Community and Human Services Secretary Cherrah Giles (center) and MCN Department of Health Secretary Lt. Cmdr. Seneca Smith (right) spoke Feb. 1 during the Listening Meetings at the College of the Muscogee Nation.

Citizens, officials communicate about MCN direction

Chelsie Rich/*Project Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger and the MCN Cabinet hosted "Listening Meetings" Feb. 1 at the College of the Muscogee Nation to give Tiger and the Cabinet members a chance to listen to Muscogee (Creek) citizens and compare the needs of the citizens with the goals and aspirations of the administration.

Jerry Wilson, MCN Tribal Administrator, started the meeting by discussing how the strategic plan, which started through a session held Dec. 3-4, 2013 involving tribal employees and administrators, still needs input from Muscogee (Creek) citizens.

"Communities are the core of any tribal government," said Wilson.

Tiger thanked citizens for attending, introduced each of his cabinet members and specified departments and programs they oversee.

Afterwards, Assistant Attorney General Kevin Dellinger spoke about the MCN chartered communities and their use of tribal lands and buildings.

The Listening Meetings also consisted of two breakout sessions where Muscogee (Creek) citizens were able to choose which topics concerned them.

The first block of sessions to choose from were: administration, health and education and training. The second sessions were: commerce and economic development, community and human services and housing.

These sessions pertained to six of the main program areas of the MCN.

Other departments will be discussed during future Listening Meetings.

During the sessions, the secretaries lead discussions on their respective departments, answered questions and took input from citizens.

"The basic purpose is really to hear what citizens have to say and have input into program structures at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation within our programs," said Cherrah Giles, Secretary of Community and Human Services.

MCN plans to have more Listening Meetings at other locations in order to accommodate citizens who were unable to make the trip to Okmulgee.

"I hope we've demonstrated to the communities that we're here to listen to them and anytime they have recommendations or concerns, they should feel free to come talk to this administration… some of the things they have recommended we can take back and incorporate in future planning and make changes," said Wilson.

Details regarding future Listening Meetings will be determined at a later date.




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We will conduct a hot seat drawing every 15 minutes for a $100 free play!
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BAR AND GRILL
President's PAYDAY
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Saturday February 22nd,
NOON - 8:00PM: $5 Diamond Play
Contest Ticket Prize Drawings
Feb. 1st - Feb 22nd: Diamond Club players earn one (1) electronic drawing ticket with every $100 coin in.
Feb. 14th: Beginning at 1:30PM, One electronic ticket drawing every 30 minutes until 8:00PM to select a prize envelope and spin the prize wheel. Win up to $2,000!
DIAMOND Club
Valentine's Day
Friday February 14th, 2014
NOON - MIDNIGHT: $5 Diamond Play
Electronic Ticket Drawings
Feb. 1st - Feb 14th: Diamond Club players earn one (1) electronic drawing ticket with every $75 coin in.
Feb. 14th: Beginning at noon, Two (one male and one female) electronic ticket drawing every 30 minutes to select a prize envelope. Prizes include $200 Free Play, $300 Cash, $400, and $1,000 Cash!
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Citizen makes wrestling history at her high school



MNN/Darren DeLaune
Muscogee (Creek) wrestler Clarissa Wiley (left) during wrestling practice at Bristow High School with teammate Aubrey Hess (right) and coach Will Evans (center).

Wiley first female wrestler to win at Bristow High School

Darren DeLaune*/MNN Reporter*

BRISTOW, Okla. — History was made Jan. 14 for Bristow High School, as 18-year-old senior wrestler Clarissa Wiley was the first female wrestler to make a pin for the Bristow Purple Pirates.

Wiley is one of four females who are on the team this year.

The pin was made against Cleveland High School during Senior Night for the wrestlers.

Wiley talked about that night.

"I heard the crowd cheering when I was getting close to pinning my opponent," Wiley said. "It made me nervous and my stomach hurt. After the fight, I thought to myself, 'Finally.' "

Wiley started wrestling at the age of four. She saw her brother wrestle and wanted to try it out. Her mother let her get on the mat to see if she would like it.

"My brother is the reason why I wanted to wrestle," Wiley said. "From then on when I did not wrestle other opponents; I wanted to wrestle him. To this day, we are always wrestling against each other."

She stopped wrestling after third grade and did not pick up on the sport again until this season.

"I knew my wrestling team needed some more people and I thought I could do it," Wiley said.

Wiley competes in the 106-pound division and talked about why she likes wrestling.

"You are by yourself when you are on the mat," Wiley said. "When you lose; you lose. When you win; you win and no one is out there to help you. I like to push myself knowing I am alone on that mat."

Wiley prefers to wrestle against boys rather than girls.

"They will push you to get better," Wiley said. "It is more of a struggle against them. They push you to the limit."

Coach Will Evans talked about Wiley's senior year.

"It has been a struggle for her because she is wrestling boys that have been doing this for a number of years to where she started back up this year," Evans said. "That does not stop her at all because she works hard every time and above all else; she hates to lose."

With Wiley and the other girls on the wrestling team, Evans is noticing more and more girls wanting to try wrestling at a younger age.

"The girls in elementary are seeing Wiley wrestle and when they saw her win, that just won them over," Evans said. "I believe it has kick-started something new here for more girls to come out, try this sport and compete."

Her mother, Angela Daugherty supported Wiley in her decision to wrestle.

"When she is competing, I pray she does not get hurt," Daugherty said. "She has the passion; she knows the moves. She is tough and she will not quit. I know the opponents she wrestles will have their hands full when they meet with her on the mat."

Wiley wants to go to school to be a dentist and has not decided if she wants to pursue wrestling on the collegiate level.

Wiley is Muscogee (Creek) and Yuchi. Her parents are Angela Daugherty and Sam Wiley. She is of the Bear Clan and a member of the Polecat Ceremonial Ground.



A crossword puzzle from the Mvskoke Languge Preservation Program

Valentine's Day

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HOKTE
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FEKEVHAKE
FEKCVMPVNETTV
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PALENOSTOHKAKEN
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MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
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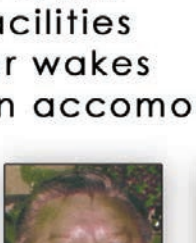
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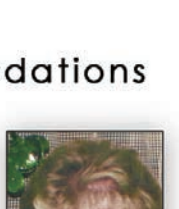
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Obituaries

HENRY BEAR



MORRIS, Okla. — Henry Michael Bear, a resident of Morris, passed away Jan. 13, 2014 at the age of 53. He was born July 4, 1960 to Lon and Susanna Deerinwater-Bear in Phoenix, Ariz.

He was preceded in death by his: mother, Susanna Bear; sister, Dana Bear; grandson, Henry Delos Bear; grandmother, Annie Coker; cousins, Billy Noon and Beaver Deerinwater.

Survivors include his: father, Lon Bear; son, Samuel Bear; daughter, Doris Bear; brothers, Dale and Gaylan Bear; sisters, Mary Billie, Diana Baker, Rosalie Deerinwater and Lonetta Fisher; grandchildren, Michael Watts, Albert Bear, Knalaycia Bear and Jacob Lujan Bear and numerous other relatives and friends.

Funeral Service was held Jan. 17, 2014 at the Belvin Baptist Church in Okmulgee with Rev. Bart Kelley officiating. Burial will follow the service at the Bear Family Cemetery in IXL under the direction of the Jackson Funeral Home and Crematory in Okmulgee, Okla.

Pallbearers will be: Jonas Yahola, Nathan Watts, Joe Domebo, Brian Tarpalechee, Loper Jones and Rick Sears.

Friends may send their condolences to www.jacksonfhandcrematory.com.

GREGORY BIGPOND



TULSA, Okla. — Gregory Gene Bigpond, 67, of Sapulpa departed from this life Dec. 29, 2013 at Oklahoma State University Medical Center. He was born in Sapulpa on Nov. 19, 1946. After graduating from Mounds High School, he volunteered to fight for his country. He joined the U.S. Marine Corps. May 29, 1964. He served his country until being honorably discharged after four years, three months, and 27 days of service. He held the rank of an E-5 Sergeant. His Military awards included two Good Conduct Medals, a National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal an a Purple Heart.

He retired from OG&E in 2008 after 35 years of service. He always said working for OG&E was a blessing. He married Linda Kay Jefferson June 29, 1970. From their union, they had four daughters.

He is survived by: Lilly Geesling of Sapulpa, Amy and Jose Portillo of Sapulpa, Jennifer Bigpond of Sapulpa, and Norma Bigpond of Sapulpa; grandfather to, Jacob Geesling of Sapulpa, Cassandrea Geesling of Holyoke, Mass., Mariah Clark of Sapulpa, Alexander Schietzelt of Sapulpa, and Justin Portillo of Sapulpa; siblings, Pauline Harjo of Sapulpa, Negiel Bigpond and spouse Jan Bigpond of Hectorville, Okla., nephew to Madja Simms of Sapulpa.

He was preceded in death by: wife, Linda Kay Jefferson 2005; mother, Lilly Simms Bigpond Cox 1997; father, Rev. Roy J Bigpond 1996; brother, Timothy Bigpond 2006 and infant Brother Roy J Bigpond Jr.

Funeral services were held Jan. 2 at Pickett Chapel. He was laid to rest in Talihina next to his beloved wife.

JOHNNY FRYE SR.



MIDWEST CITY, Okla. — Johnny Frye Sr. was born Dec. 3, 1941, in Henryetta, Okla., and passed away Dec. 27, 2013, at Midwest City Regional Hospital. He was the second of three children born to Hepsey Walker Frye and Harbie Frye. After the death of his mother in January 1944, he was raised by his paternal grandparents, Sam Frye and Leechie Taylor Frye.

His Aunt and Uncles also helped raise him. His aunt, Bessie, whom he referred to as mom, helped his grandmother wash his clothes in the pond. His uncles taught him how to hunt, fish and work on cars.

He listened to the stories his grandmother and her sister told of family members who traveled on the Trail of Tears.

Johnny grew up at Hickory Ground (Oce Vpofv) Ceremonial Grounds. At the age of 71 he accepted the Lord into his life and was baptized Aug. 31, 2013. He was a member at Thewarle Indian Baptist Church.

He attended Yardeka School, south of Henryetta. Then he attended Haskell Institute, in Lawrence, Kan., where he graduated in 1960. After graduation he took one year of vocational school at Haskell.

He joined the U.S. Air Force in November 1962. He went to Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio for two months for basic training. He went to tech school at Shepphard Air Force Base in Wichita Falls, Texas for three months. Then for one month at Charleston Air Force Base in Charleston, S.C., where he learned how to work on C-141 jet transport planes. He spent 18 months at Lajes Field in the Azores, Portugal. Then he was stationed at Holloman Air Force Base in Alamogordo, N.M., for 18 months.

After that he was sent to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Cleveland, Ohio, for three months.

He was honorably discharged from the Air Force in November 1966. Johnny was very proud to have served in the U.S. Air Force. He often shared stories with his wife and children about his days in the Air Force. He attended Spartan School of Aeronautics in Tulsa, Okla., for three months, where he was trained to work on airplane engines and got his power plant license.

He worked for Statewide Tree Trimming Service in Tulsa, Okla., for one year. General Steel in Tulsa, Okla., for 10 years, where he did tack welding and was a blueprint reader. He worked in sheet metal at Tinker Air Force Base in Midwest City. He retired from Tinker after 20 years.

He is survived by: his wife Marion Bunny Frye, Del City, Okla.; son Johnny Frye Jr., Del City; daughters Jennifer Frye Parsons and husband Brian, Midwest City, Karianne Frye, Midwest City and Melanie Frye, Shawnee, Okla.; granddaughters, Jaycie Roberts and Anessa and Amaya Switch; grandsons, Jacob Switch and Kameron Parsons; brothers, George Thompson Jr., Henryetta, Tim Thompson, Henryetta, Arthur Powell, Henryetta, William Frye, Henryetta, Harbie Frye Jr., Guthrie, Okla., James Frye, Tulsa, Okla., and Samuel Frye, Henryetta; sisters, Sally Thompson Nusbaum, Bristow, Okla., Mary Frye, Glenpool, Okla., Patricia Frye, Henryetta, Fannie Frye, Henryetta, Carol Frye, Dewar, Okla., and Freda Frye, Okmulgee, Okla.; uncle, Sam Frye Jr., Henryetta and a special canine friend, Cadence.

He is preceded in death by: his mother, Hepsey Walker Frye; grandparents Sam and Leechie Frye; father, Harbie Frye Sr.; one baby sister and three brothers, Leroy Frye, Robert Frye and one baby brother; three grandchildren; one niece, Lee Ann Thompson Mack and three nephews, Kendall Thompson, Damon Jefferies and Orlando Benally.

Pallbearers were: Roman Powell, Brian Parsons, Craig Vaughan, Jason Waquie, Albert Reid Jr. and Eastman Switch.

Honorary Pallbearers were: Sam Frye Jr., George Thompson Jr., Tim Thompson, Arthur Powell and Bobby Frye.

Funeral services were held Dec. 31, 2013 at Thewarle Indian Baptist Church with Rev. Eugene Whitlow officiating.

Interment was at the Harjo Family Cemetery near Salem, Okla.

Services were under the direction of Integrity Funeral Service, Henryetta.

- Thank you

We would like to thank, Thewarle Indian Baptist Church, Members of Hickory Ground (Oce Vpofv) Ceremonial Ground, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Honor Guard, MCN Lighthorse Tribal Police, MCN Social Services, MCN Tribal Roads Program, Integrity Funeral Service of Henryetta and family and friends who sent flowers, prepared food and offered prayers and support during our loss. You're greatly appreciated. Mvto!

The family of Johnny Frye Sr.

MADELINE KEPLEY



BIXBY, Okla. — Madeline Ruth Kepley, born Dec. 3, 1929 in Bixby, passed away Nov. 7, 2013. She graduated from Okmulgee High School in 1946. Madeline spent most of her early life in Garland, Texas and worked at Texas Instruments in Dallas for 20 years. She moved to Redwater, Texas, close to Texarkana, Texas and worked 20 years in the banking business. Her mother and father were Augusta and Ted Kepley of Okmulgee. She was very active in Eastern Star and taught Sunday school classes for years.

She was a descendant of Robert Grayson (Grierson) and Sinogee: Wind Clan, Alabama. She also would have been related to the Carrs, Andersons, Graysons and Bensons.

Comments or questions should be directed to son, Randall Clift at: randyclift@gmail.com.

RAYMOND MCGIRT



MUSKOGEE, Okla. — Raymond McGirt, 89, of Pryor, Okla. passed away Dec. 16, 2013 in Muskogee, Oklahoma. He was born July 14, 1924 to James and Wisey McGirt.

Raymond was drafted into the U.S. Army during his senior year at Moss High School and proudly served his country. He was with the Red Star 6th Infantry Division during World War II and the Korean War.

After 60 years or more had passed, on May 17, 2003, Raymond walked across the stage with the graduating class of Moss High School and proudly received his long-awaited diploma.

He was an avid basketball and baseball player during his younger years and played with many relatives and friends. He loved reading his Bible, going to Sunday School and watching sports. He learned various trades while in the Army, such as dry-cleaning and heavy equipment operation, which he did most of his life. He served the Lord and Savior with fervor and was remembered by many for the love of singing Creek songs and hymns.

He is survived by: his wife, Paula McGirt of the home; son, Bill and wife Sandy of Lamar, Okla.; daughters, Deb Sayres of Lamar, Betty and John Delso of Schulter, Okla., Wisey and Thomas Givens of Okemah, Okla.; step-son, Sam and Kathy Richardson of Strang, Okla.; 14 grandchildren, 25 great-grandchildren and many relatives and friends.

He is preceded in death by: his parents; son, Joe Ray and two granddaughters. He was a caring father, a good servant and a loyal friend and will be greatly missed.

ELMER TAYLOR



TULSA, Okla. — Elmer (Chebon) Taylor was born to Louis and Annie Asbury-Taylor April 9, 1956 in Tahlequah, Okla. He went home to be with the Lord Jan. 17, 2014 at Hillcrest South in Tulsa, Okla. Chebon attended Morris Public School. He earned an Associate Degree in Automotive Mechanics at Oklahoma State University – Institute of Technology. Chebon enjoyed fishing, family gatherings and spending time with his grandchildren.

Chebon worked for his tribe, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation as a driver for the Tribal Transit Program.

Preceding him in death was his: parents and brother Wesley Russell Taylor.

He leaves to cherish his memories and love to his: wife, Katherine (Fields) Taylor of the home; son, Eric (Michaelan) Taylor of Beggs, Okla.; daughter, Tiffany Taylor of Okmulgee, Okla.; granddaughters, Mishaela, Erica, and Erin Taylor of Beggs; brothers, Lewis (Janet) Taylor, Arnold (Cynthia) Taylor, and Eddie Taylor all of Henryetta, Okla.; sisters, Litty (Cissy) Taylor of Morris, Okla., and Louise (Hokte) Taylor of Wetumka, Okla.; along with a host of relatives and a wealth of friends.

Eulogy was given by Pastor Mikhell

Internment was held at Taylor Family Cemetery in Henryetta.

Repast: Hickory Ground # 1

Pallbearers are: Dewayne and Matt Chamberlain, Brian Davis,

Scott and Scotty Harjo and Brian Sharp.

Honorary Pallbearers are: Alexander (Skip) Fields, Larry Harjo, Allen and Corey King, Leon Martin, Leslie (Cotton) Taylor and Norman Whitlow, Jr.

HELEN WALKER



TULSA, Okla. — Helen Marie Walker, a longtime Henryetta area resident, passed away Jan. 12, 2014 in Tulsa at the age of 77. She was born on Aug. 15, 1936 in Henryetta, Okla., to George Walker and Mary Taylor Walker.

Helen grew up in the Henryetta, Okla., area and attended Yardeka School as a youngster.

MCN Community and Tribal Events

WALKER - CONTINUED

She worked for approximately a year for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Youth Program. Helen also worked for approximately a year as a custodian for Ryal School. She was baptized at 12-years-old at Hickory Ground #1 where she was also a member. Helen later made a real impression on her friends as an accomplished and prize-winning cook, making many meals and dishes for area church dinners and family gatherings. She loved to cook and work crossword puzzles. She was a loving mother and grandmother and will be missed by her family and many friends.

She was preceded in death by: her mother, father and her 11 brothers and sisters.

She is survived by her: daughter, Norma Cloud and husband David of Henryetta; son, Elliot Walker and wife Diane of Henryetta; grandchildren, Jake Walker of Wilson, Okla., Aron Walker of Henryetta, Jarrod Shipley of Henryetta, Justin Simmons of Salem and Debra Simmons of Henryetta; by several great-grandchildren and special adopted children; a special adopted daughter and good friend, Bonnie Soweka of Henryetta and by numerous other extended family and many good friends.

A funeral service for Helen was held Jan. 16 in the Chapel at Integrity Funeral Service with Rev. Walter Taylor and Rev. John Wayne Tulsa officiating. Interment followed immediately at Soweka Cemetery under the direction of Integrity Funeral Service of Henryetta.

Pallbearers are: Justin Simmons, Harry Tulsa, Norman Asbury, Galen Cloud, James Morgan, and Jake Walker. Honorary pallbearers are: Mark Sumka, David Cloud, Billy Cloud, James Shipley and Walter Pigeon.

Transportation plan safety planning meeting set for Feb. 19

MCN Transportation/*Media Release*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Transportation Department has set a long rang transportation plan public meeting and safety plan scoping session for Feb. 19 from 9 a.m - 4 p.m. at the Best Western in Okmulgee. Lunch will be provided.

The purpose of this meeting is to develop a transportation safety management plan for the MCN in all aspects of transportation related areas. The plan will be developed in cooperation with individuals from the MCN, federal, state and local governments along with other agencies with vested interest in transportation safety.

The plan will identify critical issues and develop steps that can be implemented to improve transportation safety within the MCN jurisdictional boundaries.

For more information contact Tami O'Brien at: 918-732-7915.

Seeking Native arts and crafts

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Local citizen looking to purchase wholesale authentic Native made goods.

Those interested should contact Donna at: 918-361-0749.

MCN DOH Children's Dental Screening set for Feb. 28

WETUMKA, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health will provide a dental screening and fluoride varnish application Feb. 28 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Wetumka Indian Health Center for qualified children who are a registered patient or eligible for registration at an MCN Health facility.

The services will be provided from the Mobile Clinic. For more information or to pre-register call: 918-752-8182.

Teen dating violence awareness artwork contest deadline set for Feb. 28

MCN FVPP/*Media Release*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Family Violence Prevention Program is holding an artwork contest for Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month, which is in February.

The deadline is Feb. 28 and Muscogee (Creek) youth ages 12-18 are eligible to participate. The grand prize is $200 and two runners up will receive $100 each.

Artwork and themes should be directed at a teen audience and bring awareness to the problem of teen dating violence as well as encourage healthy relationships and safe use of technology.

For ideas and information about teen dating violence and healthy relationships visit: www.loveisrespect.org or www.breakthecycle.org.

For more information contact Mitzi Pope at: mpope@mcn-nsn.gov or 918-732-7892.

To print and application visit: www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov/Pages/FamViolence/fvpevents.html.

Wild Onion Dinner set for March 1

HOLDENVILLE, Okla. — The Salt Creek United Methodist Church Annual Wild Onion Dinner is set for March 1 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Holdenville Creek Indian Community Center at 224 Popular, Holdenville, OK. All you can eat dinners are $10 for adults and $5 for children 10 and under.

Arts and crafts booths are available. For more information contact Doug Scott at: 405-379-3125.

Symposium on Muskogean history set for March 5-7

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A symposium on Muskogean history and culture is set for March 5-7 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Mound Building on the MCN Tribal Complex.

Everyone is invited to attend this event hosted by the MCN Department of Cultural Preservation.

Spring revival Set for March 6-8

SAPULPA, Okla. — Covenant Harvest Ministries has set a spring revival for March 6-8 at 7 p.m. nightly at 722 N. Hodge Sapupla, OK 74066.

The speakers are Pastors Fred Lowe, Robert Lay Jr. and Danny Faulkner.

Wild Onion Dinner Set for March 15

TULSA, Okla. — A wild onion dinner is set for March 15 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Haikey Chapel United Methodist Church.

The price is $8 for adults and $5 for children.

Annual Wild Onion Dinner Set for March 22

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Concharty United Methodist Church Annual Wild Onion Dinner is set for March 22 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at 19040 Garfield Rd., Okmulgee, OK.

The price is $10 for adults including to go plates and children 10 and under cost $6.

Youth Summit set for April 3

MCN DOH/*Media Release*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Behavioral Health Program invites you to the Third Annual Native Heroes of Hope Youth Summit. We are creating sessions that focus on leadership skills and how to develop a happy, healthy and stable lifestyle.

Please make plans to joins us at this year's Heroes of Hope Summit, "Doing Good Does You Good," hosted at the Tulsa Air & Space Museum.

This year's Natives Heroes of Hope Summit will follow the overall theme, Doing Good Does You Good: Helping others feel good.

For more information, contact Lindsley Harry or Natalie Barnett at the Sapulpa Behavioral Health Office 918-224-9307.

Event available for 7th-10th graders and limited to 150 youth plus chaperones. Registration coming soon. We look forward to seeing you in April!

MCN National Day of Prayer set for April 5

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Day of Prayer and Fasting has been set for April 5 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the MCN Mound Building. Everyone is invited.

SRO February Schedule

MCN SRO/*Media Release*

WETUMKA, Okla. — The following is the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Southern Regional Office schedule for the remainder of February.

Feb. 17 - Summer Youth
1-5 p.m.

Feb. 18 - Tax Commission
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Lunch 11-11: 30 a.m.

Feb. 25 - Tax Commission
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Lunch 11-11: 30 a.m.

Feb. 28 - Women Infants and Children clinic
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

For more information contact the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Southern Regional Office at: 405-452-1100.

Native American sitcom to air in March

HHP/*Media Release*

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. — The pilot TV episode of 'Frybread' is 60 percent complete; a production that features several cast members from the movie, 'More Than Frybread.' The release of the pilot by Holt Hamilton Productions (HHP) could very well be the first Native American TV sitcom series.

The public will have an opportunity to view the pilot episode via a stream prior to its release to the world by making a $6 contribution. Contributions will assist in funding the remaining production and postproduction costs through a link www.kickstarter.com/projects/holthamilton/frybread-the-tv-show.

For more information contact Isaac Curley at: 480-235-5261 or highhogan@msn.com.

MCN delegates to participate in cultural center opening

CCNN/*Media Release*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Centro Cultural Nicaraguense Norteamericano (CCNN) is opening and inaugurating its new Bi-National Center in Managua, Nicaragua in partnership with the U.S. Embassy in Nicaragua. This CCNN inaugural event will take place Feb. 10-16, 2014, and will be honoring and celebrating the cultural heritage of the First Peoples of both Nicaragua and the United States.

Representative leaders from the visiting Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN), along with leaders from indigenous communities in Nicaragua, will participate together to perform ceremonial blessings and cleansings of the center and pay respects to the ancestors and the elders of all Native nations.

This new "cultural facility" will include a studio theater, outdoor stage, gallery, cafeteria and classrooms for English, arts and music education programs.

The MCN delegation was invited to participate in this unique cultural exchange by InnerCHANGE WORKS, who, with funding support from the US Embassy in Nicaragua, will host the delegation. InnerCHANGE WORKS (ICW) is a U.S.-based not-for-profit organization founded and directed by Janet Foerster, a Muscogee (Creek) citizen who has been leading projects and programs in Nicaragua for the last nine years.

The 'Muscogee Nation News' is planning to run an article on this event in an upcoming edition.

NOTICE

Reagan Smith Energy Solutions, Inc. of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma is seeking contact with and/or information concerning the whereabouts of the following persons regarding an oil and gas lease in Sec. 9-07N-11E, Hughes County, Oklahoma:

Heirs of Houston Yahola, Full Blood Creek Roll No. 349
Heirs of Mandy Coffee Yahola Harjo
Heirs of Amos Coffee
Heirs of Martha Coffee
Heirs of Effie Coffee

If you are listed above or have information regarding the whereabouts of such persons, please contact us at the following number:

Reagan Smith Energy Solutions, Inc.
1219 Classen Dr.
Oklahoma City, OK 73103
Call 1.866.551.7913

NOTICE

Reagan Smith Energy Solutions, Inc. of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma is seeking contact with and/or information concerning the whereabouts of the following persons regarding an oil and gas lease in Sections 8 & 9-07N-11E, Hughes County, Oklahoma:

Heirs of Ewnah J. Tiger, FB Creek Roll No. 148

If you are listed above or have information regarding the whereabouts of such persons, please contact us at the following number:

Reagan Smith Energy Solutions, Inc.
1219 Classen Dr.
Oklahoma City, OK 73103
Call 1.866.551.7913

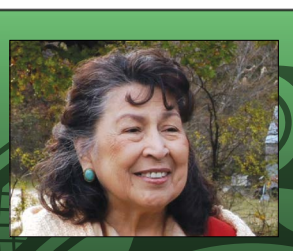
Inside the MNN:

Creek language instructor remembered

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MFSI holds sour cornbread making class

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Muscogee Nation News

Official publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and a production of Mvskoke Media

March 1, 2014
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"Tasahcuce"
Little Spring

Challenge Bowl begins with high school, elementary competitions

Contestants discuss changes at 2014 competition

Amanda Rutland/*Media Specialist*

BEGGS, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Challenge Bowl kicked off Feb. 13 at the Beggs First Baptist Church with the high school division competition; followed by the elementary school match Feb. 18.

The Challenge Bowl is a competition that has been put on by the MCN Johnson O'Malley Program since 1999. The goal of the Challenge Bowl is to foster knowledge of the Mvskoke language, history and traditions.

"It's actually to teach our children the Creek culture, history, government and language using traditional values of brotherhood as the foundation," JOM Manager Regina Keith said, "The Challenge Bowl was never set up to teach our children how to win competitions; but how to learn, share and be grateful to those willing to teach them."



MNN/Amanda Rutland

Students attend the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Challenge Bowl opening ceremony Feb. 13 before separating for team matches. In the foreground is the Wilbur "Geebon" Gouge Honors Team Award trophy.

High School Division

The high school competition opened with MCN Principal Chief George Tiger presenting the Belvin Hill Memorial Scholarship awards before attendees and participants adjourned to the match rooms. This year's scholarship winners were Amber Lee Proctor and Jasmine Jack.

More than 20 teams participated in the high school division. Each team had a minimum of four players, with extra players sitting in the sidelines ready if substitutions were needed.

The teams of four battled wits on topics ranging from current events to Mvskoke legends. Each match had six volunteers consisting of: a scorekeeper, timekeeper, Mvskoke Speaker, match judge, moderator; who asked the match questions and a runner; who would bring each team to their designated rooms.

Challenge - 10

CMN prepares for final accreditation site visit

New changes for College of the Muscogee Nation

Amanda Rutland/*Media Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — After a decade, the College of the Muscogee Nation is preparing for a final site visit March 10-12 from the Higher Learning Commission's review team as part of the final steps toward accreditation. The average time span from the initial application to accreditation is four years; however, CMN has been recommended after two.

MCN has made changes this semester to prepare for the final steps toward accreditation, including: a Student Success Center, construction on a Student Union, which is estimated to be finished June 2014 and an increase in staff.

The Student Success Center is located within the CMN library and provides students with academic advising, career counseling, testing services, tutoring and retention support.



MNN/Amanda Rutland

The College of the Muscogee Nation is preparing for a final site visit March 10-12 from the Higher Learning Commission's review team as part of the final steps toward accreditation.

One of the new staff members this semester is Financial Aid Coordinator Butch Smith. This position allows CMN to disperse Title IV financial aid, which encompasses funds from the federal government including: the Pell Grant, Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG) and loans.

"It will be a growing process for us, obviously, and it already has been; a lot of regulations and stuff involved with us taking on Title IV funds from the Department of Education; but we are at this point. We can be a fully functioning financial aid office," Smith said.

CMN faculty members are not the only people preparing for the site visit. Monte Randall, Dean of Student Affairs, is working with students on a presentation they will make to the HLC review team.

Once on site, CMN will go through 32 different activities with the review team.

"We are prepared. We are excited about it. We are just looking forward to getting it over with. It has been a long journey, 10 years," Dr. James King, Regents Director of Institutional Effectiveness said.

Emvpanyv: 'One who tells a story'

Guess who's coming to dinner, finally the BIA does it again, good-bye to a good friend

Gary Fife/*MNN Editorial Assistant*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Here's a first I think for Disneyland-On-The-Potomac. I don't recall this ever happening before...but I could be wrong.

A Native American political leader was among the guests at the recent White House State Dinner for the French president, Francois Hollande. (Please note that the 'c' in Francois should have the little curly-cue thingy hanging off it and making it pronounced 'Fran-swa' but I don't have one on my keyboard.)

National Congress of American Indians President Brian Cladoosby and his wife, Nina were among the honored guests and celebrities. While most attendees wore traditional black tie and evening gowns, the NCAI prez wore his traditional cedar hat and a vest woven of cedar.

Nina wore a pretty black outfit with sparkly silver trim stuff. (Look at me; I'm fashion critic now!)

In a statement after all the hot-shots chowed down and made nice, Cladoosby described the event like this: "Tonight was a true reflection of the place of Native governments on the global stage. The tribal nations of this country were honored and represented alongside foreign nations and the United States. I am so excited to help connect tribal leaders with those I met tonight and to do whatever I can to advance the goals of tribes and Native peoples."

He also told Indian Country Today he had hoped to discuss the recent sale of sacred Hopi artifacts by a French auction house.

(Maybe Cladoosby should

Emvpanyv - 6

MvskokeMedia

MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

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MCN Reintegration to build transitional living facility

RIP looking to break ground in June

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

HENRYETTA, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Reintegration Program is in the process of building a transitional facility.

Last year, the program received a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice and funding from the MCN for a total of $6.5 million toward the project.

RIP did surveys with community members to gather input on what services the program should provide if it was able to obtain a planning grant. Results showed that those surveyed believed a transitional living center would be best for the community.

The surveys also mentioned transportation problems RIP clients experience in getting to and from areas for meetings. With a transitional facility, RIP hopes to eliminate that problem.

Another thing the department hopes to do away with is paying for housing outside of the tribe. Currently, RIP has to pay to house a client in a separate location that the program does not own. With the new transitional living facility, RIP hopes to do away with paying for housing.



Submission

The blueprint of new transitional living facility for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Reintegration Program.

"A lot of people drive from rural areas and that is a problem getting to place where they need to go," RIP Project Coordinator Amber Nelson said. "With this facility here, we hope that these are the major issues that we can take care of for our clients."

The 36-bed facility will also provide substance abuse counseling, volunteer work in the community and classes to help clients transition back into society.

"We want to get vocational training here with them also," Nelson said. "They have to get a job when they get back into society and vocational training will be a great way to help them."

The department is currently seeking out bids for architects. They hope to have an architectural firm selected by March and to begin construction by June.

"That is what we are aiming for," RIP Manager Tony Fish said. "I have good faith that everything will start on time."

Nelson explained why they want the transitional facility to be built in Henryetta.

"We thought of this area because we are in the center of everything," Nelson said. "We are centrally located for Tulsa, McAlester and Muskogee. That is one of the things that we have looked at."

Nelson also explained why it is going to be called a transitional facility.

"We don't want to make it an environment such as prison or being confined.

"These people are free. It is our job to get them transitioned to society to be good citizens. With this facility we are giving them a better opportunity to transition," Nelson said.

Creek language instructor remembered

Mauldin dedicates life to cultural preservation

Gerald Wofford/*MNN Contributor*

OKMULGEE, Okla. – Muscogee (Creek) citizen Margaret Mauldin, a Creek Language Instructor at the University of Oklahoma, passed away Jan. 25.

Mauldin worked to preserve the Mvskoke language through: teaching, recording hymns and creating the Mvskoke to English dictionary, 'A Dictionary of Creek/Muskogee.'

Jeff Martin, Professor of Linguistics at the College of William and Mary, said Mauldin's dedication was also a way of making sure each student she taught knew they were embracing a culture and way of life.

According to Mauldin's daughter Gloria McCarty, her mother's calling was greatly influenced by her upbringing.

"Mama was a truly bilingual person. Most people who speak more than one language have clear recollections of learning the other one. Mama didn't," said McCarty. "She never said she was traumatized when she was sent to school only speaking Creek then struggled to learn English; because that never happened."

McCarty explained that for years her Mother didn't perceive Creek and English to be different languages.

"She simply thought of them as different sets of vocabulary," McCarty said.

Monte Randall, Dean of Student Affairs at the College of the Muscogee Nation was a student of Mauldin's at OU from 2007-2010 and remembers her as a teacher and friend.



Submission

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Margaret Mauldin, a Creek Language Instructor at the University of Oklahoma, passed away Jan. 25.

"Margaret had a calm strength about her that no doubt came from being raised in a Mvskoke setting and being a women's leader in her community," said Randall. "Her strength was her passion to carry on the Mvskoke language and culture through her teachings, her curriculum, her published Muscogee (Creek) and English dictionary and Creek Hymns."

Mauldin had worked extensively with Jack Martin, on the dictionary.

"I met Margaret Mauldin in Okemah in 1991," Martin said. "She had had several jobs; from working in an accounting firm; to driving an 18-wheeler across country. When I met her, she was helping a professor at OU with a diabetes survey."

Martin explained how he came to work on the dictionary with Mauldin.

"I had been working on Mvskoke since 1986 and when I met her; I was working on some letters written in the 1800s," Martin said. "I showed her one when I met her, and was amazed to see she could read old handwriting in the Mvskoke alphabet as easily as if it had been printed in English."

Martin said that after the dictionary was completed, he and Mauldin worked on translating and editing a collection of stories written by Muscogee (Creek) citizens Ernest Gouge and James Hill. Martin had found the stories by Gouge, which were dated 1915, in the National Anthropological Archives in Washington, D. C. Hill's stories are from the 1930's.

Mauldin garnered many awards in 2005, including an LHD (doctor of humane letters) from the College of William and Mary.

The MCN National Council honored Mauldin with a resolution for language revitalization May 21, 2011.

The Native American Caucus of the Oklahoma State Legislature awarded her a Citation of Merit May 4, 2011.

McCarty, who is also a Creek Language Instructor at OU, said her Mother never stopped teaching, even after suffering a stroke.

Mauldin made sure the responsibility of teaching her classes was not prevented, often teaching by video conferencing if she could not be there in person.

"Mama died at home as she hoped, having kept her promise to work until her dying day on saving her language. In the end, she fell asleep; the way we all hope we will… quietly, painlessly.

"At her request, there was no funeral, no obituary and she never had to leave home again. We took care of her as she taught us to do. She's there now in our family cemetery; buried next to her mother and her oldest son. We'll build her a nice house in the spring."

Groundbreaking held for new MCN Transportation building



MNN/Gary Fife

Muscogee (Creek) Nation officials break ground on the new MCN Transit Department building located at the MCN Industrial Park in Okmulgee, Okla.

Transit to have new home at MCN Industrial Park

Gary Fife/*MNN Editorial Assistant*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A cold, blustery day didn't keep ground from being turned for the beginning of a new building for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Transportation Program.

In addition to the new transit building, the industrial park site will have room for a planned Compressed Natural Gas station to serve the department and be available to the public.

LaSarge predicted that the CNG service would cut his fleet fuel costs by 60 percent and be a revenue generator from public sales.

MCN Principal Chief George Tiger said the new building would reflect the tribe's "aggressive economic development program" and the increase in service provided by the MCN Transportation Program demanded that additional space.

"We outgrew the old building and this will give us new office space, new vehicle space and mechanic space."

– Tribal Transportation Program Manager Charley LaSarge

The site is located at a southwestern corner of the MCN Industrial Park, and will house new office and workspaces for Transit vehicles and mechanical crews.

Funding comes from a $730,000 federal highway grant.

According to Tribal Transportation Program Manager Charley LaSarge, the new 33,000 square foot building will fill the need for more room after the department has experienced growth.

"We outgrew the old building and this will give us new office space, new vehicle space-and mechanic space," LaSarge said.

LaSarge said the federal roads program is slated to move into the building, which currently houses the MCN Transit Department at the northeast corner of the tribal campus.

The Transit Department is a recent recipient of the Marketing Award from the Oklahoma Transit Authority.

The new building is scheduled to open in August of this year.

MCN Scholarship Foundation recognizes spring scholarship winners



MNN/Jessica McBride

Scholarship donor and Muscogee (Creek) Nation Secretary of the Nation Bill Fife recognized Joseph Tiger Feb. 8 as a recipient of the Bill S. Fife Scholarship at the MCN Scholarship Foundation Spring Scholarship Reception.

Foundation hosts reception

Jessica McBride/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Higher Education Scholarship Foundation Program honored spring scholarship awardees with a reception Feb. 8 at the MCN Okmulgee Country Club in Okmulgee.



Educational scholarships were awarded to eight individuals. Each scholarship was donated through the foundation to individuals who met the requirements of each donor.

The scholarship guidelines can be tailored to benefit students who are studying a specific subject or represent a particular group, such as veterans.

The Scholarship Foundation was initiated in 2013 to help advance the education of Muscogee (Creek) citizens by raising funds for scholarships.

"The first semester I think we probably had about 50 applications and the second semester we probably had about 75 to 80 applications," MCN Higher Education Scholarship Foundation Program Director Dr. Pete Coser said. "We received these from all over the United States; so it's not just here in Okmulgee County, but all over Oklahoma and all over the United States as well."

Coser thanked donors and supporters for working together to achieve a goal.

"Today, you're seeing what your support can do for students and for the Creek Nation," Coser said.

Corporal Joe Halley Scholarship Award winner Marissa Parker is a parent, full-time employee of the College of the Muscogee Nation and a full-time college student. Parker is thankful that this scholarship was available to help her obtain her education.

"To me it means that I have the support of not only tribal leaders, but of my fellow citizens," Parker said. "It's very encouraging that I have that support as I'm going through my educational journey; and as I'm becoming a role model for not only the students at the College of the Muscogee Nation but also my children."

The deadline to apply for scholarships for the fall semester is June 6.

For more information on the MCN Higher Education Scholarship Foundation Program call: 918-732-7754 or visit: www.creeknationfoundation.org.



Council representative features: Dode Barnett



MNN File Photo

Dode Barnett, reelected Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Creek District Seat B representative.

Barnett follows in mother's footsteps

Kyla McKown/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Dode Barnett was sworn in Jan. 4 for the 18th Session of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council.

Barnett has been a representative since July 2012 when a special election was held for Creek District Seat B.

Barnett grew up attending Salt Creek United Methodist Church, and her mother was also a member of the Council. Her mother, Phyllis Warrington, served on the Council from 1992–1996 and 2000–2004, when representatives had two-year terms between elections.

Barnett said she learned from her mother, who served on numerous boards including the MCN Citizenship Board and the MCN Gaming Board.

It wasn't until a divorce and a move from Kansas City, Mo., more than 12 years ago that Barnett realized a change needed to be made in the Nation's legislation.

Barnett said she was a single mom of four children, when she became ill and had to go on short-term disability. That's when Barnett came to the tribe for assistance.

"I came to the tribe for assistance and they couldn't help me," Barnett said. "I got nothing. I didn't get anything, no TANF, no help with rent or utilities. I walked away from that experience very disillusioned to what these services were even there for because I remember calling legislators and saying, 'If you can't help a single mom of four, then what are the services there for?' I really didn't have a lot to do with them for a while because of that."

That's until a few years ago when family, friends and community members encourage Barnett to run for the Council.

"I had no plans whatsoever to run for office," Barnett said. "It wasn't on my bucket list or top 10 things to do but so many people encouraged me when the special election came open to run. And I'm so glad I did because I absolutely love my job and it's definitely a meaningful job."

Barnett said that this session, she'd like to see the Council focus on familiarizing themselves with the laws on the books. She'd also like to see the tribe start a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Education coalition program.

"Between literacy and STEM it's the key to making the students successful," Barnett said. "It's a slow process and would probably take a generation before we see exactly how much it's impacted people but it's needed."

Barnett said she believes the STEM coalition and other educational programs will make a difference in her future-grandchildren and great-grandchildren's lives.

She looks forward to the rest of this session and is confident it will be a success.

"I think it's a really good collaborative environment and with Thomas' [Yahola] leadership; it's going to be a really good session," Barnett said.

Barnett is of the Bird Clan.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

DISTRICT COURT FILED
2014 FEB 14 AM 9 39
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
DONNA BEAVER
COURT CLERK

In the Matter of the Guardianship of the Persons and Estates of:
S. D. C.
M. N. C.
T. R. C., II
Minor Children.

Case No. GD-2013-25

SERVICE OF SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION NOTICE

To: Joe Adair

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued for guardianship of the Minor Children in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, GD 2013-25, styled In the Matter of the Guardianship of the Persons and Estates of: S.D.C., M.N.C., and T.R.C. II, minor children. The action alleges that the petitioners are entitled to a Final Decree of Guardianship over the minor children.

You are notified that you must answer the *Petition* filed by the petitioner or appear on the 4th day of April, 2014, at 9 o'clock a.m. or the allegations contained in the *Petition* will be taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of petitioner as prayed for in their *Petition*.

Given under my hand and seal this 14th day of February, 2014.

Donna Beaver, Court Clerk
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court,
Okmulgee District

By: Stephanie Bear
(Deputy)

Approved:

Courtney L. Eagan-Smith, MCN#543
McKenna & Prescott
114 N. Grand Ave, North Lobby
Okmulgee, OK 74447
(918) 756-1112 Telephone
(918) 756-1113 Facsimile
Attorney for Petitioners

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
STATE OF OKLAHOMA OKMULGEE COUNTY
The undersigned hereby certifies this instrument to be a full, true and correct copy of the original, as the same appears on the record in the District Court Records
Witness this 14 day of Feb. 20 14
Stephanie Bear
Court Clerk

MFSI holds sour cornbread making class



MNN/Amanda Rutland

Mvskoke Food Sovereignty Initiative Communications Coordinator Ric Denney demonstrates the step-by-step process for making sour cornbread Feb. 8 during a traditional foods class at the MFSI office in Okmulgee.

Participants learn how to get the right amount of sour

Amanda Rutland/*Media Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Mvskoke Food Sovereignty Initiative Communications Coordinator Ric Denney taught a vce taklike kvmokse (sour cornbread) making class Feb. 8 at the MFSI office in Okmulgee. The class was followed by a lunch of traditional foods.

"I have been making sour cornbread off and on for probably the last three maybe four years; just experimenting with it," Ric said.

Ric started the class by talking about the proper vessels for preparing and cooking the cornbread, and the bread starter. A bread starter is normally a mix of flour, sugar and water. In the sour cornbread starter, rice is added. The mixture is then sealed and left unrefrigerated to allow it to produce live yeast.

According to Ric, almost every culture has some form of sour dough bread; and the bacteria in the bread promotes a healthy digestive tract.

He explained that humidity and weather could impact the final product. Warmer temperatures cause the dough starter to become sour faster.

"When I first started off making this, it seemed like every batch was different; and no matter how hard I tried to make it come out the same," Ric said, "That's why I say it probably has to do with the weather".

Ric said the curing period for the dough starter is anywhere from two to four days depending on the desired level of sourness.

At the end of the demonstration, Ric held a question and comment segment. The MFSI staff said they like these events because they hear citizens' experiences and memories of traditional life. The event has even inspired further questions.

"When I was little they used to use real corn, and when they started using rice; that's what I would really like to know," Ric's mother Muscogee (Creek) elder Myrtle Denney said.

Myrtle recalled a year when there was a corn shortage so severe, Shawnee Mills closed due to lack of corn. She speculated that there might be a correlation between this event and the use of rice in the dough starter.

For other participants, the class helped fill in knowledge gaps.

"I've had a recipe like my grandmother used to make it back then; but she would already have it started," Melinda Deeringwater said, "That was very informative; so now it makes me want to go home and try it."

MFSI hosts a community education event every month. The next event, set for March 22, is a blue bread making demonstration.

Those interested in attending the next class should RSVP by contacting Ric Denney at: 918-756-5915.

VCE TAKLIKE KVMOKSE
(Sour Cornbread)

Makes about 3 round loaves

FOR THE SOUR BATTER MIXTURE

1	cup uncooked rice	1	cup all purpose flour
2-3	cups cold water (for rice)	1	cup white corn meal
3	cups hot tap water (for the batter mixture)		

In a small pan with a tight fitting lid, bring 2 to 3 cups water to a rapid boil. Add 1 cup rice and continue to cook for about a minute or so longer. Stir the rice to keep the rice from sticking to the bottom and put the tight fitting lid on the pan and remove the pan from the heat. Let stand for 20 minutes untouched. [Do not remove the lid or allow the steam out for the 20 minutes to allow the rice to continue to cook off the heat.

After 20 minutes put the rice in a crock and add 1 cup all purpose flour and 1 cup white corn meal. Add 3 cups hot water from the tap and mix well. Put the crock in a warm place to rest and stir it once per day. Let the batter age in the crock for 2 to 4 days. [Note: The ideal time for aging will depend on personal preferences, i.e. how sour you want it to be. Also the weather and how warm your kitchen is will also play a part in how fast it will sour.]

FOR THE BREAD

1	cup all purpose flour	1	teaspoons baking soda
1	cup white corn meal	2	teaspoons salt
2	Tablespoons sugar	2	Tablespoons cooking oil (for each loaf)
2	Tablespoons baking power		

When you are ready to bake the bread—heat a cast iron skillet in a preheated oven set to 400° for 15 minutes. In a large mixing bowl and add 1 cup all purpose flour, 1 cup white corn meal, 2 Tablespoons sugar, 2 Tablespoons baking power, 2 Tablespoons baking soda, 2-teaspoons salt and whisk dry ingredients together. Mix the sour batter mixture from the crock with the dry ingredients to form a wet batter, about the consistency of pancake batter.

Pour 2 Tablespoons of cooking oil in the hot cast iron skillet, coating the bottom and sides of skillet. Ladle 2 cups of batter into the hot skillet and place in oven for 25 minutes or until edges of the bread start to brown and pull away from the edges of the skillet. Remove the skillet from the oven and flip the bread over in the skillet. [Use a spatula to free the bread from the bottom of the skillet if it sticks a little.] Place the skillet on the stovetop and brown the top of the bread with medium high heat (approximately 1 to 2 minutes). Remove bread to a wire rack to cool.

Repeat with the rest of the batter.

MVSKOKE FOOD SOVEREIGNTY INITIATIVE **FEBRUARY 2014**

MARCH OF THE GREEN ONES



Every Saturday in March
NOON - 8:00PM

$5 Match Play. Earn one electronic drawing ticket with every $50 coin in beginning March 1st. Electronic ticket drawings every 15 minutes from NOON - 8:00PM. The winner will spin a prize wheel. Prizes include: $100 Freeplay, $250 cash, or a Green Ones envelope for a prize up to $10,000 cash!

KEEP PLAYING TO KEEP WINNING! Electronic tickets carry over every Saturday this month!

MARDI GRAS

Friday March 7
NOON - 8:00PM

$5 Match Play. One (1) $50 Free Play Hot Seat prize drawings every 15 minutes from NOON - 8:00PM. One (1) $500 Cash Hot Seat prize drawings every hour from NOON - 8:00PM.

Each Diamond Club member will receive a free Mardi Gras promotional item.

Daylight Savings Dough!

Sunday March 9
NOON - 8:00PM

$5 Match Play. One (1) $50 Free Play Hot Seat prize drawing every 15 minutes from NOON - 8:00PM. One (1) $500 Cash Hot Seat prize drawings every hour from NOON - 8:00PM. Each Diamond Club member will receive a free promotional item.

St. Patricks Day SPECIALS

Monday March 17
4:00PM - 8:00PM

$5 Match Play. One (1) $50 Free Play Hot Seat prize drawings every 15 minutes from 4:00PM - 8:00PM. One (1) $500 Cash Hot Seat prize drawings every hour from 4:00PM - 8:00PM.

Each Diamond Club member will receive a T-shirt after earning 50 points.

Spring Fling

Friday March 21
NOON - 8:00PM

$5 Match Play. One (1) $50 Free Play Hot Seat prize drawings every 15 minutes from NOON - 8:00PM. One (1) Spring Fling hot seat prize drawings every hour from NOON - 8:00PM.

Prizes Include:
Lawn Mowers
Gas Grills
Patio Furniture
Cash prizes up to $1,000

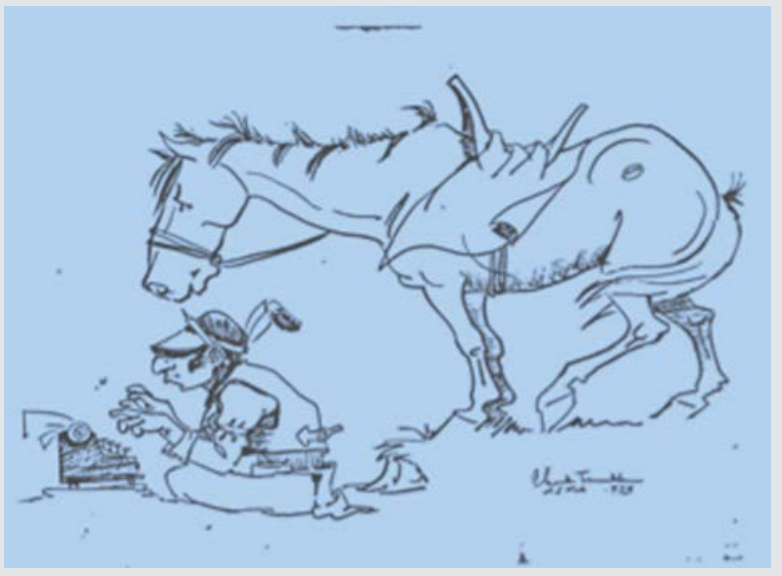
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CREEK NATION Casino MUSCOGEE

Emvpanyv

Continued from Page 1



have talked to the French prez about that 1803 'three-cents-an acre' Louisiana Purchase, huh? 828,000 square miles. That's $234 million in 2013 dollars, less than 42 cents per acre as described in Wikipedia. Who said the French owned it anyway?)

Hope you enjoyed dinner Brian.

As usual, the Bureau of Indian Affairs has missed the boat as far as doing its duty in a timely fashion. This time with its required report on Indian population by gender, income, age and availability for work. The BIA is supposed to issue this report every two years, right? But, it hasn't done that job since 2005, missing several reports.

But now, supposedly, the 2013 report offers changes in the numbers; but it also concludes that about only half of work-age American Indians and Alaska Native have jobs. Somehow, that's nuthin' new. Maybe the BIA should have hired some of those Native folks to work on those reports.

I looked at them and I still don't understand any of it.

Check this out: "earlier reports used statistics that were provided by tribes in response to surveys implemented by Indian Affairs, because such statistics were compiled using a variety of different methods, they could not be used to compare one tribal area to another or produce a reliable aggregate total. This 2013 report uses employment estimates based on publicly available statistics from the Census Bureau. Because of the lack of data for each specific tribe, Census data often is the only available data. As such, the data herein may not reflect actual employment levels."

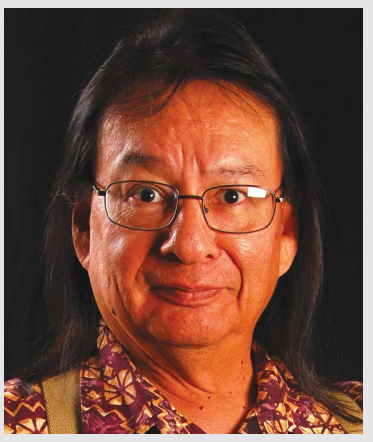
Is this taken out of context? Sure it is; but they wrote it, not me.

For Oklahoma, "Native America," it says: "Total Population Indicator: 471,738: Service Area Population: 140,294; AlAN AOIC Living in the Tribal Statistical Area: 189,361; AlAN AOIC Living in Counties in the Vicinity of the Tribe: 142,083.

What's the difference between these numbers, huh? And, they're only nine years late.

By the way, AOIC means "Alone Or In Combination." Boy, does that bring some punchlines to mind! You think that's confusing? You should read some of the other definitions. Many of them should have been left out in the pastures where they belong.

Our good buddy and colleague Gerald Wofford has left Mvskoke Media and the media business. The former co-host of 'Native News Today,' writer for the 'Muscogee Nation News' and my co-anchor at 'Mvskoke Radio' decided to leave all the deadlines and craziness for a job that he could leave behind at the end of the day. Gerald worked for the tribe for 23 years. He had 145 "Likes" on the MNN Facebook page. Sad to see him go. We wish him well.



- Hvtvm Cehecares: ***'I will see you again.'***

Mvskoke Language Preservation Program

The Mvskoke Language Preservation Program is in the process of collecting data to identify those individuals that can speak Creek. We, as the Mvskoke Nation are headed on a path that is going to adversely affect us as the unique people we are if we don't start learning and using our beautiful language. Our Mvskoke language sets us apart because it makes us who we are and without it we will be lost. We don't feel that we're over dramatizing this important message. We believe there are a lot of individuals within and outside the boundary lines of Mvskoke Nation that can speak either fluently or are well-versed or they can understand the language but can't speak it. **We are searching for those individuals that can speak Mvskoke not necessarily be able to read or write it even though that would be a plus.** There may also be individuals that are unable to neither understand nor speak the Mvskoke language but have the desire to learn. We would greatly appreciate your cooperation by providing the requested information in this survey below. The information will be vital in the efforts to preserve our language. With your help we can ensure our children our children's children that they will carry on our beautiful language for generations to come.

Please check one that will apply:

_____ Fluent Speaker

_____ Well-Versed

_____ Able to understand but unable speak the language

_____Unable to neither understand nor speak

_____Are you willing to commit to learning your language

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home and or Cell Number: _____

Date of Birth:_____

Community/Tribal Town Affiliation: _____

Comments: _____

***Please mail to MCN Language, P.O. Box 580, Okmulgee, OK 74447 or you may drop the form off at our office. MVTO

This information will be kept confidential.

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
FOOD DISTRIBUTION

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Wetumka
(405) 452-1175

Monday – Friday
Store: 9AM – 4PM
Office: 8AM – 5PM

For more info, find us on the web at
www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov

Parenting groups now offered through MCN PROJECT LAUNCH

MCN DOH*/Media Release*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The PROJECT LAUNCH program, sponsored by Muscogee (Creek) Nation Behavioral Health Service, utilizes the interactive, hands-on, and fun Incredible Years parenting program for parents of babies, toddlers, and children ages 0-8. The Incredible Years research-based parenting program has been proven effective for reducing children's aggression and behavioral problems and increasing social competence at home and at school.

Parents will learn the basics of caring for an infant, safety, developmental understanding, teaching kids to problem solve, effective limit setting, how to praise and encourage, social and emotional coaching, non-physical discipline techniques and much more.

The duration of the program ranges from 8-18 weeks, with each weekly session lasting approximately two and a half hours. Groups will be hosted in Creek, Okfuskee, McIntosh, Okmulgee and Hughes Counties. The training is free for Native American families and meals and/or snacks and childcare will be provided to family participants.

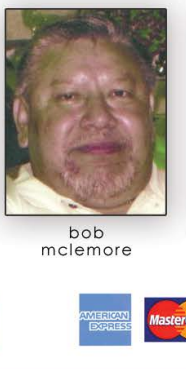
For more information about Incredible Years parenting groups or Project LAUNCH contact Erica Ridgley, Young Child Wellness Partner at: 918-224-9307, Erica.Ridgley@creekhealth.org or Tamara Newcomb, Young Child Wellness Expert.

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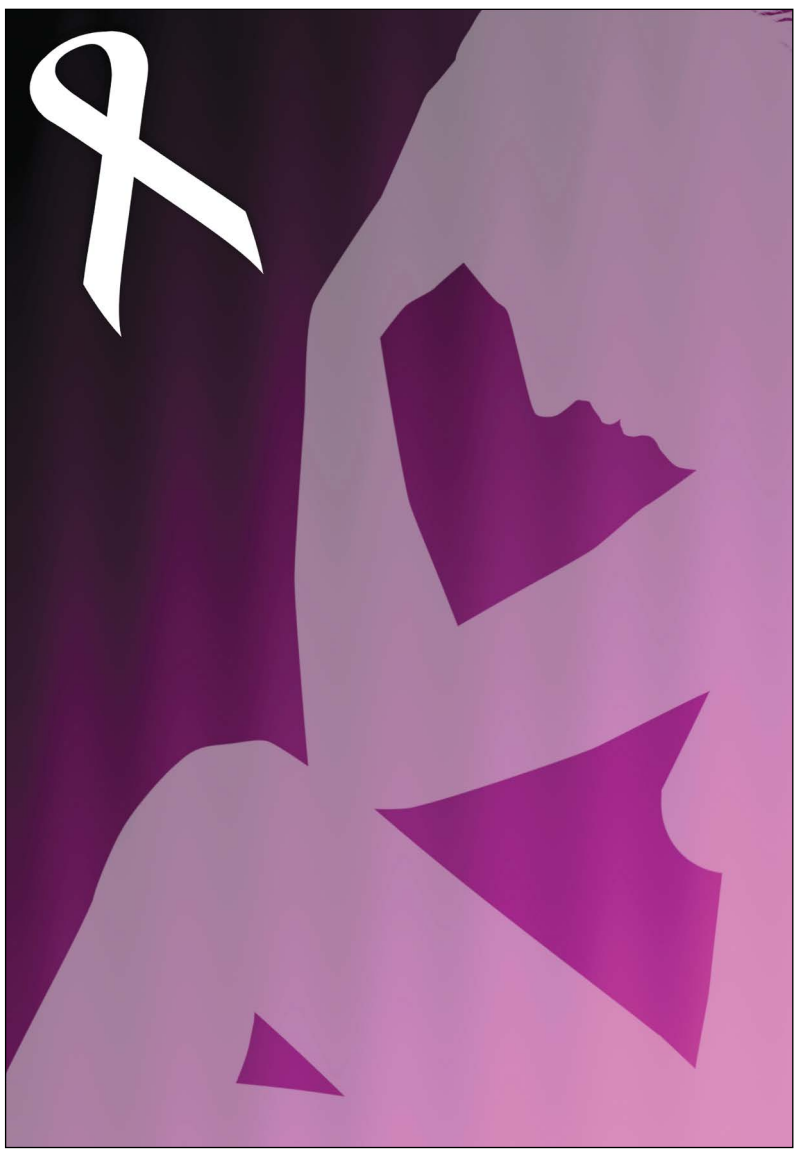
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Mother recalls losing daughter to domestic violence



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Muscogee (Creek) citizen Lisa Tiger lost her daughter, Shelleigh Poorbear Aug. 13, 2007, to an abusive dating relationship.

Tiger shares story, gives prevention insight

Jessica McBride/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — When Muscogee (Creek) citizen Lisa Tiger adopted Shelleigh Poorbear on a trip to South Dakota in 1996 as an HIV and AIDS activist, she never imagined the emotional train ride that her life would take.

On Aug. 13, 2007, Tiger received a horrific voice mail from Poorbear's boyfriend.

"He left a message on my machine and said that 'he hopes this is all a dream; he's sorry for what he did; she was always real good to him,' " Tiger said. "And I just knew that he had killed her; even though he didn't come out and say that he had done that."

At the age of 18, Poorbear was stabbed to death in Muskogee, Okla., by her boyfriend and father of her child, Enrique Pacheco.

According to www.domesticviolencestatistics.org, more than three women are murdered by their significant others every day in the U.S.

"You never expect anything like this to happen. In your wildest dreams you would never expect a child that you raised and cared for, for so many years to be brutally killed," Tiger said.

Tiger remembered the court process for the murder trial that she described as a 'nightmare;' reliving the incident over and over. Pacheco was sentenced to life in prison without parole.

Tiger was satisfied with the sentence given to Pacheco, but said that she does not hate him.

"I've got too much to deal with to bother with hating anybody," Tiger said.

Tiger said that her friends and family were there for her to help get through the tragedy.

"Of course being the parent, the one that's supposed to protect the child, I had a lot of guilt," Tiger said. "I continue to this day to blame myself."

When Poorbear started dating Pacheco, Tiger tried to stress the importance of having a healthy relationship.

"He promised me that he would never be violent towards her," Tiger said. "Of course, after her death I found out from her sister that she didn't tell me what went on with them; because she knew that I would intervene; and I wouldn't allow her to be anywhere near him if he were abusive towards her."

After Poorbear's murder, Tiger said that she found out the extent of the abuse in the relationship. She said that Pacheco hit Poorbear where it would not be noticeable.

Tiger said that she wished young girls would realize that they should not lie or cover for an abusive boyfriend. She also said that parents play a role in teaching their children about healthy relationships.

"I know it gets to a point where it's hard to have control over your children; but you've got to set a good example too," Tiger said. "If you don't want your child to be involved in a violent relationship, then you can't have a violent home."

Since the incident, Tiger is even more protective of her biological daughter.

"Now I live with the fear of something happening to my biological daughter. It's there; it's always there," Tiger said.

Tiger credits her 9-year-old daughter with bringing joy and happiness in the midst of tragedy.

"I've got the most lovely, wonderful little child that I gave birth to," Tiger said. "She saved my life."

To speak with an advocate of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Family Violence Prevention Program contact: 918-732-7869. For emergency after hours assistance contact the MCN Lighthorse Police Department at: 918-732-7800.

Youth with special needs participate in MCN 4-H



MNN/Amanda Rutland

Left to right: Emma Davis, Lisa Davis, John Luke Davis and Callie Davis lead their goat and wagon during the Fall Harvest Festival Parade Oct. 4-5 in Okemah, Okla., sponsored by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Okemah Indian Community Center.

Mother finds inspiration in her children

Jessica McBride/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — It is not unusual to see a mother watch her children as they participate in various activities. Mothers are often seen supporting their little ones in every experience they face. This is true of Muscogee (Creek) citizen Lisa Davis.

Lisa, who is also Cherokee, believes all of her children are perfect. But to some, the rough path the Davis family walks may seem difficult.

"All three of my kids are special needs kids," Lisa said.

According to Lisa, John Luke Davis, 15, is slightly autistic; Callie Davis, 11, is dyslexic and Emma Davis, 7, was diagnosed with retinoblastoma in both eyes. This form of cancer causes tumors to form in the eye.

Emma is a patient at St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital. In Catholicism and some other Christian denominations, St. Jude is the patron saint of lost causes.

"Her kind of cancer, no one's ever had an eighth birthday. It's extremely rare," Lisa said. "Not very often do you hear a doctor use the word miracle. They don't throw that word around lightly."

Doctors expect Emma to have birthdays past her eighth. With her type of cancer, the tumors do not disappear. Doctors do not consider patients with this type of cancer to ever be in remission because the tumors are still there, just not growing.

As a side effect of the chemotherapy, Emma has lost part of her hearing.

Although some days are challenging, Lisa said that she refocuses saying, 'God has a different plan.'

"When you have kids you expect them to be perfect; and you dream and imagine what their life's going to be," Lisa said. "That dream and that image you have in your head has to die because that's not going to be reality."



MNN/Jessica McBride

Emma Davis handed out awards to the winners Jan. 24 at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation All Indian Livestock Show. Her mother Lisa Davis observes in the background.

All three of the Davis children are homeschooled. Lisa said that recently she found inspiration through one of Emma's projects on seeing-eye dogs.

"I asked my daughter, 'do you know anybody who is blind or has trouble seeing?' and she goes, 'no, I wear glasses. I see fine,' " Lisa said. "Later on, we had one about people who are deaf and I said, 'do you know anyone who is deaf or has trouble hearing?' and she says, 'no, I wear hearing aids.' "

Through all of the hospital visits, Lisa said that Emma views life as a glass full.

One trip to the hospital for Emma stands out to Lisa.

"We pull up in front of the housing unit one time and from the back seat I hear a little voice say 'yeah, we're home,' " Lisa said. "That crushed part of my soul to hear my baby say that we were home when we're at the hospital."

Lisa said that Emma was six months old when she was diagnosed with retinoblastoma; so life itself has never changed. Emma views herself as a normal girl.

All three of the Davis children participate in 4-H projects from public speaking to showing goats. The family believes the animals are a form of therapy for the children.

"It helps them a lot with their self confidence," father Rick Davis said. "Just getting out and be able to stand up there and no matter what happens; they're ready to take it on."

Rick said that he is proud of his children for taking responsibility in caring for and training their own animals every day. The family uses 4-H projects to have fun, with winning an award as an added bonus.

"4-H is a good outlet of their energies," Rick Davis said. "There's a lot of team building in 4-H that you don't get in other things."

While her big brother and sister participated in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation All Indian Livestock Show Jan. 24, Emma awarded ribbons to all of the winners.

"I want to thank Emma Davis for being the ribbon girl," MCN 4-H Program Project Manager Billy Haltom said. "She was out there just full of life. That really makes you think just how blessed you are."

Professional, victims discuss the impact of bullying



MNN/Amanda Rutland

Bullying impacts many individuals and does not discriminate in age, gender, race or social class; though these can be factors in causing bullying.

People play multiple roles as bully, prey

Jessica McBride/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — At a fall festival in October 2012, a Muscogee (Creek) citizen, who wished to remain anonymous, recalled a bullying incident involving her 9-year-old son. The child was pushed off the back of a hayride by a group of teenagers resulting in a concussion and the need for several staples to mend the wound on his head.

"He's been picked on since he started school really," the mother said. "I have to take up for him at least once a month."

The child recognized the bullies, but would not tell his mother who they were.

"I guess they got some kind of guy code; I don't know," the mother said. "I didn't know what to do."

People can play many roles in the social event from the actual bully and victim, to a witness of the incident. The witness can act as a bystander, who remains uninvolved and silent; or an intervener, who takes a proactive role to intercede in the incident.

People also play different roles depending on the circumstances. While a certain child may play the role of prey at school, they can turn to be the bully to their siblings.

The definition of bullying is difficult to describe because an interpretation of the word can be different for many people.

Bullying can be defined as an action that impacts an individual's emotional and social well-being. In today's world, we see physical, verbal, social or cyber bullying.

"I think there's so many factors in what impacts a person and what doesn't," Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health Project Director Amy Donaldson said. "Whoever is doing the bullying behavior, they find that Achilles heel and they latch on."

When it comes to the reasons behind bullying, Donaldson said it is a social event that involves a power struggle.

"Sometimes it's actual imbalance of power; sometimes it's a perceived imbalance of power," Donaldson said.

Because the definition of bullying can seem to be up to interpretation, there is not an easy answer for when 'normal childhood teasing' goes too far.

"You catch somebody else at the wrong time on the wrong day… it can just be that perfect storm and be enough," Donaldson said.

"You catch somebody else at the wrong time on the wrong day… it can just be that perfect storm and be enough."

– Amy Donaldson, MCN Behavioral Health Project Director

Stories have been featured in the news about children being bullied to the point that they take their own life.

When we go back in time to study our own experiences as school-aged kids, we remember others being picked on because of their height; weight or maybe they were just different.

"He's just a real sweet kid, and quiet," the mother of the bullying victim said. "…I guess kids see that as a weakness."

According to the mother, she does what she can to protect him every day, but sometimes it doesn't seem like enough.

"I'm trying my hardest to protect him any way I can and I feel like a failure as a mother because I can't control what other kids are doing to him… I can't make it go away or stop," the mother said.

In one instance, she recalled her child being picked on at a sporting practice. She asked him why he had not been trying and not wanting to go to practice. The child spoke up to say that some of his teammates had poked fun of him and told him he was not a good player.

The mother said she spoke up, and the circumstances soon changed.

"They had some kind of team talk and after that all the kids were encouraging him," the mother said. "And he bloomed, he blossomed and he became like this great player all of a sudden."

The mother hopes that her son will be stronger and grow from his bullying experience. She does not wish for any child to feel as her son has.

Donaldson said that at schools, bullying can be difficult to deal with because the targeted child responds out of emotion, while the bully can pick the ideal time and place to pick on their prey. Sometimes the victim receives punishment for their behavior even though they are not the ones who initiated the incident.

According to www.bullyingstatistics.org, 77 percent of students said that they have been bullied at some point. Symptoms of bullying can range from physical injuries to a child not wanting to attend school.

According to www.makebeatsnotbeatdowns.org, 87 percent of students believe that school shooters are motivated by a desire to get back at someone for picking on them.

Donaldson said that at a bullying seminar, a room full of adults could still recall with emotion, instances when they were picked on at a younger age. However, the bullying phenomenon is not isolated to school-age children. Many adults feel they have experienced bullying during their adult life.

In the next article, we will explore 'sticks and stones' in the workplace.

For more information about bullying visit: www.bullying.org.

Adults play role in bullying



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Bullying is not exclusive to a school setting. Adults and parents play a significant role in bullying behavior.

Nursery rhyme theme enters the workplace

Jessica McBride/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Growing up, many have heard the saying about sticks and stones regarding verbal insults. Physical or not however, this harassment can still have an impact, even years later.

"Bones heal; and most people don't talk about a broken bone 40 years down the road," Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health Project Director Amy Donaldson said. "But you've got these people who will raise their hand and with emotion in their voice talk about being bullied 40 years down the road."

When some think of bullying, they picture a setting involving schoolyard and children. This might not always be the case as bullying can happen almost anywhere at any age.

At the end of 2013 a workplace-bullying incident gained national attention. An NFL football player for the Miami Dolphins left the team because of verbal abuse and bullying from another team member.

Even though this occurrence happened in a sports setting, individuals can still experience bullying from peers at work; whether it is receiving actual verbal abuse; being coerced by a manager or passing off work assignments.

While adults can take the role of bully or victim at work, they can also embody bullying behavior at home.

"When we study, when we learn the different forms of bullying; we see this with some of the adults you know doing the very same things," Director of the Ponca Nation Behavioral Health Department and Muscogee (Creek) citizen Dr. Lahoma Schultz said.

MCN Department of Health Children's Mental Health Initiative Youth Coordinator Natalie Barnett said that many times, parents do not intend to imitate bullying behavior to their children.

"Parents can be modelers of bullying behavior, but parents can also be the support system for those that are the victims of bullying," Barnett said. "If a parent realizes that their child is the bully, they can also be the support system to them trying to get to the root of the problem."

Sometimes, parents do not recognize the extent of a bullying problem.

On May 13, 2010 in Perkins, Okla., 11-year-old Ty Field-Smalley took his own life because of bullying he experienced at school. His father, Kirk Smalley, told Barnett in an interview in 2012; that he wishes he had done more about his son being bullied.

"It's been a nightmare… We wonder what we missed as parents, wondering what we could've done to keep this from happening."

– Kirk Smalley

"It's been a nightmare… We wonder what we missed as parents; wondering what we could've done to keep this from happening," Kirk Smalley said. "It takes one person to stand up. If one person would've stood up for my boy, he might still be here."

Kirk Smalley and Barnett agree that bullying is a learned behavior and that sometimes it is learned in the home, though being a bully or a victim is not hereditary.

Recently, we have seen more instances of bullying in the media; however, it is not a new issue.

MCN Tribal Youth Suicide Grant Social Media Coordinator Suzan Clark believes that technology has contributed to the modern day problems.

"When I was in school, we communicated more… Now there are all sorts of media; so I think that that does hinder," Clark said. "I think communication has a lot to do with it."

In the next article, we will discover the impact technology teenage bullying.

For more information for parents and dealing with bullying visit: www.pacer.org.

Harjo participates in Tulsa Indian Art Festival



MNN/Kyla McKown
Muscogee (Creek) citizen, William Harjo, performing at the Greater Tulsa Indian Art Festival Jan. 31 at the Glenpool Conference Center in Glenpool, Okla.

Citizen strives to preserve Mvskoke culture

Kyla McKown/*MNN Reporter*

GLENPOOL, Okla. — After years of working as an alcohol and drug counselor in Kansas City, Mo., Muscogee (Creek) citizen William Harjo moved his family to a small, Native community in Texas and turned his hobby into a job.

For more than 20 years now, Harjo and his wife have traveled, selling flutes and Native jewelry at art festivals and powwows.

Harjo said he believes these types of events are a way to promote education about Native Americans, especially for non-Indians.

He recently attended the 28th annual Greater Tulsa Indian Art Festival Jan. 31 – Feb. 2 at the Glenpool Conference Center.

"It's a pretty good opportunity for me to make some money and it promotes the culture and makes awareness to non-Indians who have no concept of Native Americans," Harjo said.

He said most importantly, it's a way for youth and adults to recognize the difference between the different Native American tribes.

"We're talking about different languages, different ways of doing things," Harjo said. "Seven different races and because you know at one time, there were 32 different groups underneath he Muskogean language dialect at one time."

Although Harjo isn't actually giving out history lessons at these art festivals, he is doing what he loves, which is making flutes and selling CD's.

It all started when he and his family made the move to Livingston, Texas, after he suffered from a heart attack at 41 and decided he didn't want to work as a counselor anymore. This is when he saw a large amount of river cane growing outside of his house.

From then on, he has made flutes out of the river cane and has been able to travel to Europe, Germany, Austria, Switzerland and other vacation spots selling his products.

"And I've been to both sea coasts of the U.S. and been to Canada," Harjo said. "And it has offered us an opportunity to travel and pay our bills."

Harjo said he and his wife plan to start slowing down soon but will still work diligently to preserve Muscogee (Creek) culture along with other tribes.

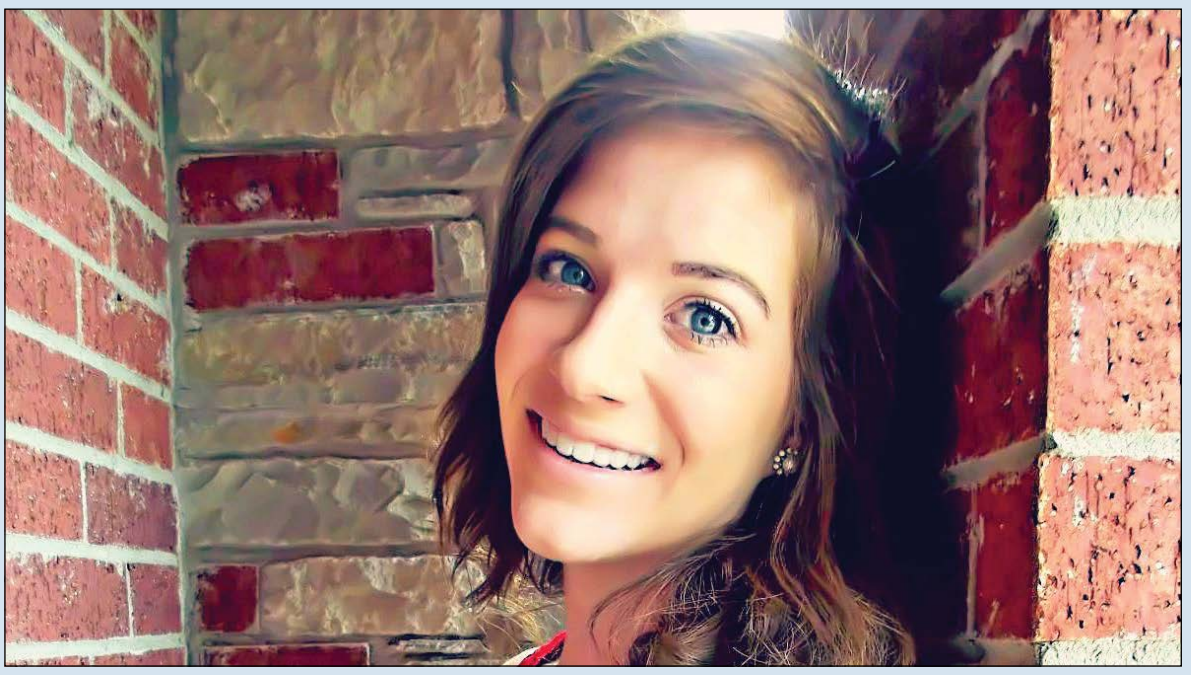
"Not only the Creek culture, any Native culture deserves to be preserved because people never trip on the word 'extinct,' " Harjo said. "The whole language, the whole way of doing, just no longer exists. And I'd like to see our culture moving on and remain."

This has also led Harjo, a fluent Mvskoke speaker, and his wife to consider offering Mvskoke language emersion, which would be an opportunity for Native Americans and non-Indians to stay a week in the Harjo home where only the Mvskoke language will be spoken.

"Have others stay with me a few days and speak the Native language," Harjo said. "And we're not charging. Just having them come and do a big family visit and do normal living things but only conversation would be in the Native language."

To learn more about the emersions or to purchase Harjo's CD's and flutes, you can email him at: wgharjo@yahoo.com.

Muscogee (Creek) citizen competes in Tulsa pageant



Submission
Muscogee (Creek) citizen Kayla Stevens, 19, competed for the title of 2014 Miss Teen Tulsa Feb. 15 at the Thoreau Demonstration Academy in Tulsa, Okla.

Kayla Stevens participates in 2014 Miss Teen Tulsa pageant

Kyla McKown/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizen and Glenpool Public Schools senior, Kayla Stevens, competed in her first pageant competition Feb. 15 at the Thoreau Demonstration Academy in Tulsa, Okla.

She placed as 4th runner-up and her mother, Anita Stevens said her family couldn't be more proud.

Feb. 14 was the final interview portion of the pageant, and scores from this were combined with those from the actual pageant the following day.

There was a casual and formal wear section of the contest but the main part of the competition was based on the demeanor of the contestants.

"It's basically just all about your personality," Kayla said. "I find myself as different and artistic, unique, funny and outgoing."

Kayla competed in the Teen Division with a chance at being crowned 2014 Miss Teen Tulsa. If she had won the title, she would've represented the Tulsa and surrounding communities at the National competition that will be held in Orlando, Fla., with more than $30,000 in prizes and awards.

Kayla believes this was not only an opportunity at a chance for scholarship money, but also a chance to make gains as a person.

"I'm not a shy person like I used to be," Kayla said. "Now that I've gone through all this, I'll have more confidence in myself, more job availabilities like trying to be a waitress or something."

Kayla received support from family and friends, along with orgranizations that sponsored her in the pageant, including Faith Church, which she attends.

She plans to attend Rogers State University in Claremore, Okla., after graduation to pursue a career in the art field.

Although, Kayla enjoyed the opportunity to participate in her first pageant, she's not sure she'll compete again.

Citizen to have music featured in film



Submission
Muscogee (Creek) musician Julian B. Watson (right) alongside Rage Against the Machine guitarist Tom Morello (left).

Singer shares influences, goals

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

DEWAR, Okla. — Julian B. Watson, also known as Julian B. is a musician, songwriter, performer and sometimes, a poet.

He feels the wide range of music played in his home growing up taught him to enjoy music.

"I grew up listening to music, all types of music," Watson said. "Growing up, we had records of performers from Motown, the Beatles, Hank Williams and Merle Haggard. I listened to them all growing up."

Watson has been performing since he was 19-years-old. Overall, the genre of music he performs is hip-hop but he incorporates other type of genres when he writes and records his songs.

"When I write my music, I do bring in styles from other areas such as R&B, country and soul," Watson said. "Some of my songs have all of those styles in there."

Watson was first signed to label, Sound of America Records.

"I feel really fortunate and blessed when they signed me with their records," Watson said. "To be able to express myself through music is great. I have been able to do this for awhile now, so it makes it a greater blessing."

Being from a small town, Watson feels that his music has helped him see the world. For the last 10 years, Watson's music has been done at an independently.

"Seeing how some record labels use their artists, I have gained experience from that," Watson said. "They have showed that some labels take advantage of their performers. Seeing all of that has helped me for the last 10 years when I decided to be on my own."

The Muscogee (Creek) citizen has been recently informed that one of his songs, 'In da City' has been selected for a documentary called 'The Art and Life of the Plains Indians.' The film is being by the French production company Cine'te'v'e'.

As of publication, negotiations are still ongoing.

"I am not quite sure how they found my song," Watson said. "I am glad they did. It is one of the great things about making music."

Watson talked about the song they want to feature, "In D' City."

"When I started writing the song," Watson said. "It was a bit of an anthem for the people who lived in the country. Without the people who grow our food in the country, the people in the city would not have nowhere to get anything. So it is portraying the people who live in the country and that help, in some way, the people in the city."

Watson hopes that him being a musician will inspire the younger generation to show their talents to the world.

"I support everyone around here that has a talent and they want to pursue those talents into getting bigger," Watson said. "Here in Creek Nation and in Oklahoma, we have a lot of people that have incredible talents and if they want try and showcase it. I am here to help in anyway I can."

'The Art and Life of the Plains Indians' will open to audiences this year around spring.

Mvskoke Media bids farewell to Gerald Wofford



MNN File Photo
OKMULGEE, Okla. — Mvskoke Media would like to bid farewell to employee and friend Gerald Wofford upon his departure after 23 years of service to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation; and wish him the best of luck in all his future personal and professional endeavors.

MCN Transportation wins marketing, asphalt award



MNN/Jessica McBride

Pictured from left to right: Haskell Lemon Construction Company Vice-President of Operations Terry Wells, Oklahoma Asphalt Pavement Association Executive Director Larry Patrick, HLCC Paving Crew Superintendent John McGee, Muscogee (Creek) Nation Interior Affairs Deputy Director Jeff Fife, Haskell Lemon Construction Company Project Manager Virgil Reschke, Okfuskee County Commissioner for District 3 Bruce Smith, MCN Principal Chief George Tiger, MCN Tribal Transit Program Director Charley LaSarge and OAPA Board of Directors Chairman Tyle North.

Program works to improve driving conditions

Jessica McBride/*MNN Reporter*

MIDWEST CITY, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Transportation Program received state recognition for accomplishments in marketing and road quality.

The program received the Oklahoma Asphalt Pavement Association Top City, County, BIA or State Highway Award Feb. 11, for supervision over the road construction project on U.S. Route 62 in Okfuskee County.

"This road is heavily travelled by our elderly and the tribe," TTP Director Charley LaSarge said. "We drove it and you couldn't hardly drive down it."

The program teamed up with Haskell Lemon Construction Company, the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Okfuskee County to complete the project. LaSarge said that the road is now safer for travel.

TTP also received the Oklahoma Transit Association Marketing Award Jan. 30, for their partnership with the Ki Bois Area Transit System. TTP contracts with KATS for citizen transportation.

"One of the main reasons we probably received this award was because within a year and half; we turned our ridership and mileage around 300 percent," LaSarge said.

TTP has many ongoing projects that may be considered for awards in the future, including: Eufaula Street in Okmulgee and the recently unveiled trolley.

Though winning awards is meaningful, LaSarge is proud of the fact that he was able to accomplish a task thought to be impossible.

"We proved that person wrong; that roads can be built with county commissioners," LaSarge said.

LaSarge finds inspiration to improve the roads throughout the MCN jurisdiction because of the poor reputation roads in Oklahoma have. He said that he has made that a goal.

"I know where those words come from; I've said them myself. When I leave Arkansas, I can tell when I hit Oklahoma. When I leave Texas, I can tell when I hit Oklahoma," LaSarge said. "I think before it's all said and done, all of the roads within our territory anyway, are going to be re-built and drivable and safe."

New MCN trolley tests Okmulgee streets



MNN/Gary Fife

The new Muscogee (Creek) Nation trolley, acquired by the MCN Transit Department, makes its first stop at the College of the Muscogee Nation.

Trolley taken out for test run

Gary Fife/*MNN Editorial Assistant*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — It was only a test run Jan. 24, but the new Muscogee (Creek) Nation trolley already looked like a hit.

The bright green trolley now bears the logo and lettering of the MCN and drew the attention of Okmulgee drivers, pedestrians and Muscogee (Creek) citizens as the staff of MCN Transit took it out for a test run on its proposed Okmulgee route.

According to Transportation Department Manager, Charley LaSarge, the trip was to get an idea of the time needed to complete a circuit of its planned route, find out which streets were suitable for the trolley to drive and see where stops might be located.

The route started by cruising through the MCN Senior Housing addition. Next, it traveled through the tribal complex. Ki Bois Area Trasit Systems vans provide many Muscogee (Creek) citizens and students with the rides they need to reach the tribe and commercial destinations around town.

The first stop the trolley made was at the College of the Muscogee Nation campus where it took on its first passenger. It pulled in behind a Ki Bois van, which left a student behind.

Nancy Hall just missed her lift and walked up to the stop just as the trolley pulled in. She said her first thought was, "Wow, what is that?"

Hall doesn't have a car and depends on the transit system to get to classes and around Okmulgee. She was offered a lift to the Oklahoma State University campus and she said that it took a second or two to sink in, "It's for anybody?"

When told of the new addition by MCN Transit, she had compliments for the concept and the vehicle.

"It's pretty and it gets you where you want to go, Hall said. "That's awesome."

The route being planned for the trolley would include MCN offices, the OSU campus, Okmulgee Indian Health Center, MCN Council House, library and post office. Commercial stops will include the Creek Nation Travel Plaza, One Fire Casino, Wal-Mart and Warehouse Market.

The new trolley drew a lot of attention from local people. Pedestrians waved and there were a lot of big smiles. Housing residents came out to grin and point. Other drivers were 'rubber-necking' at the vehicle and one even took pictures with her phone at a stop light.

According to LaSarge, there are still a lot of details to be worked out regarding: the route, putting up shelters, signs and posting schedules for the trolley; so no date has been set for when the trolley service will begin.

In addition to planned stops, LaSarge said riders may flag down the trolley. The fare is 50 cents. When launched, the new trolley service will be available to the public.

Challenge

Continued from Page 1



MNN/Amanda Rutland

The Eufaula Ironheads compete Feb. 13 against Glenpool Blue for the high school division semi-finals during the MCN Challenge Bowl.

Before entering the room, the runner made sure no player entered with any personal items that could be used for cheating, such as: phones, purses and papers.

Return players remarked about a change in this year's study guide. In the past, players were given questions and answers to study. However, this year's players were only given information to study; with no knowledge of what the questions would be.

"In the past, you were only given the study guide; and you were given the answers; and that wasn't doing much. I think it was a good idea to give the information; but I think it would have been better if there was a study guide as well," five-time participant Erika Dunson from Union High School said.

The Challenge Bowl Committee said the questions were removed to facilitate an optimal learning experience.

The final two rounds were played in the sanctuary in front of the rest of the participants. The semi-final game between Eufaula Ironheads and Glenpool Blue was a close match with both teams tied at 70 points.

MCN Second Chief Roger Barnett was on hand to congratulate the winners and present them with awards.

The winners were: first place - Glenpool White, second place - Glenpool Blue, third place - Eufaula Ironheads and Beggs Truth received the Wilbur "Geebon" Gouge Honors Team Award.

Elementary School Division

The elementary school competition Feb. 18 had almost double the amount of participants compared to the high school division, with 39 teams participating.

"There are a lot more students involved; so trying to maintain the pace and keep the event going as fluid and easy as possible is a big deal for us; but that's why we have to depend a lot on our volunteers," MCN Higher Education Administration Manager Emmanuel Bezzell said.

The elementary division of the Challenge Bowl is the earliest age group eligible for participation, starting in third grade for larger schools and fifth grade for smaller schools. For many students, this was their first year to compete in the Challenge Bowl.

"It is very competitive and it's all about the traditional," First year Beggs Public School participant Savannah Giessmann said.

Bezzell said his favorite thing about the elementary division is that the younger children want to learn.

"Seeing the young kids take an interest in what we do as a tribe, take an interest in our language; you know. It really starts with them preserving it and moving forward with how we are going to incorporate it into the schools more, " Bezzell said.

Other volunteers had the same outlook as Bezzell.

"It does my heart good that these kids work so hard all year and want to learn the language," Challenge Bowl Coordinator at Beggs Public School Pricilla Johnson said.

The winning teams were: first place - Glenpool 1, second place - Glenpool 2, third place - Hilldale Hornets and Beggs Hvtke received the Wilbur "Geebon" Gouge Honors Team Award.

The middle school division competition will be held Feb. 25.

Stay tuned for further coverage by the 'Muscogee Nation News.'



MNN/Amanda Rutland

The first and second place winners from Glenpool Elementary School who were presented with their awards by Dr. Wayne Johnson, Secretary of the MCN Department of Education, Employment and Training (foreground) and MCN Second Chief Roger Barnett.

An Easter story from the MCN Reintegration Program



Submission

Left to right: Muscogee (Creek) Nation Program Manager Tony Fish, Case Worker Louis Hicks, client Easter Sunday Fixico and Case Worker Fredo Anderson.

Submission from:
MCN Reintegration

HENRYETTA, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) Nation Reintegration Program Manager, Tony Fish, recently posed a question to RIP employees at a Monday morning staff meeting, "Why do we collectively exist?"

This question came upon the heels of us speaking to former RIP client, Mr. Easter Sunday Fixico about how the program was able to be the bridge that helped him begin his new life, which started prior to his release from a 70-year sentence.

Easter Sunday 2002 was clearly one example of how steps were in motion for the success Easter would experience upon his release even though he was behind bars at the time. Easter was 34-years-old when he received his sentence. For the first two years of incarceration, Easter revealed to the team that he hadn't changed his ways and that he was still slinging drugs through the fence during that time. His cellmate's parents had given him a bible in 2001, and Easter soon read it from front to back. From that moment he never put it down.

On May 5, 2002, Easter declared, "I gave it all to God. I quit messing with drugs and completely turned my life around."

Easter said he had no worries and always clung to the hope he found in the truths of God's word. He was at peace and never gave up hope on being released.

While incarcerated, Easter was fortunate to have Case Worker Fredo Anderson and Case Aide Florence Frank attending parole hearings on his behalf. Easter said that having someone there from RIP simply gave him hope and eventually his sentence was reduced, not once but twice. In the end, Easter actually served 13 years, seven months and 24 days.

While serving his sentence, Easter married his faithful companion, Sherri Rae Fixico; who had stood by his side with unwavering support. As of today, they have been married for 12 years, and together for a total of 17 years. Sherri was consistent in bringing the children for their weekly Saturday or Sunday visits.

There would be times that Easter would advise her not to drive on the roads because of bad weather conditions, but Sherri remained constant. Between the two of them, they have seven kids in their family. Sherri had to go outside the home to help support the family and she was able to do so by getting a job at Wal-Mart during this time.

Easter and Sherri relied on the MCN Angel Tree Program to provide Christmas presents for their children during this time and is a great example of how programs within the tribe work together for the common good.

Easter wanted to make sure that everyone who reads his story knew that he gives all credit to God for putting people like Sherri in his life, who stayed with him through the rough times during his incarceration.

"One of my greatest assets through all of this is God gave me a good Godly woman. Looking back I was right where I needed to be at all times. My wife even went through one of the riots up there," Easter said.

While in prison, Easter had the opportunity to become trained as a licensed journeyman and contractor. Even though he had already been transferred to minimum security; they'd often times wake him up at 2 a.m.; so he could help with emergencies all over the prison.

Little did anyone know, that Easter had been saying a certain prayer since Jan. 1, 2006. On that day back in 2006, and every day since, he prayed to be given the opportunity to work MCN or Doug Morrow Plumbing. He had grown close to both Doug Morrow and folks like Chubby Anderson at RIP because of their support at his parole hearings.

"Doug, Chubby and the Reentry program offered hope to me while I was facing my jail time," Easter said.

Once he got the news that he was going to be released, one of the conditions he had to meet was the completion of required classes. Those classes were offered at the RIP offices in Henryetta. Logistically speaking, this was a gift from God because Easter didn't have to worry about how he would get to all the different locations to complete these required classes. In fact, Easter laughed, "They couldn't get rid of me at RIP; I wouldn't leave!"

It was at one of these class sessions, during his first two weeks after release, that Easter saw a business card from Brent Coleman left on one of the conference tables. Mr. Coleman had recently left a meeting with RIP Project Coordinator Amber Nelson and Tony about the upcoming Transitional Living Center project and had placed his card on the table. Easter noticed it on the table, took the card, and drove straight to the MCN Employment and Training Offices where he spoke to Courtney Josie about his knowledge and desire to be a plumbing contractor for the tribe. Once he showed Courtney that he could do the work, he was offered a job from Mr. Brad Fox.

A few months later, the Housing Department had good things to say about Easter.

Needless to say, his daily prayer that he started back in 2006 was answered on the same day, and his job was secured within two weeks of being released! More importantly, Easter stays grounded today by the same routine he has had since 2006.

"I get up at 4:30 a.m. every morning and I spend an hour, two or three, weekends included, in the Word. It's become part of my life," Easter said.

Easter is happy to say, "I am living the 2 Corinthians 5:17 life. That old person is gone. That's how I try to live my life now."

Recently a Parole officer asked Easter, "How did you go through prison; come out; land the kind of job you have; making a living; with benefits?"

Easter replied, "You can't live on what happened." He continued, "If I was a millionaire and went broke, I wouldn't be able to live off of that money; because it's gone. That part of my life is gone; he is dead now. But it's something I'll never forget; but it was my choices that took it all away."

He emphasized that he was raised with the right beliefs, but chose not to use them.

He spoke of perseverance and added, "I've got buddies in there who are facing life; but I tell them that they have to keep hope."

Tony saw the importance of Easter having a support system while he was in prison. He and Easter talked about how people usually burn bridges before they go in and once they are in prison; it's only by the grace of God that those relationships can be mended.

Easter added, "When you are writing from prison and saying that you are sorry; usually the other person is thinking that you just want something or it's not sincere."

In an answer to the question Tony presented to his staff, Amber probably said it best.

"It can be concluded that the Reintegration Program collectively exists because we understand that not one single person is perfect; everyone makes mistakes. People deserve a chance to grow in a positive way. We understand that all people should be treated equally; however we know that is not always the reality," Amber said.

We, as a program, exist to help build a new foundation that can bring hope to our clients and their families. As a program, it brings us such joy to hear Easter Sunday Fixico end his testimony with a simple, "Life is good!"

Mvto!

Thoughts and reflections: Joy Harjo



The benefits, importance of art, music, listening and expression

TULSA, Okla. — My boyfriend and I took a break from work and drove over to hear Smilin Vic and his Soul Monkeys Band. They were and are awesome. It was nice to see a large tribal contingent circled there enjoying the music and supporting one of our fine performers.

Cover bands are always arriving and disappearing from the scene; but Vic's band has staying power because they move deftly from soul to blues to jazz and a little country-like swing rock once in awhile, and the horn section kicks it. Vic knows how to lead; he knows how to bring it all home with style.

There are many styles of saxophone playing and each has their bag of tricks. Mostly, there is no trick to playing. Perfecting performance involves a lot of scale practicing, listening to the best horn players out there and playing along to the greats. I'm thinking of heading to Oklahoma City for a few lessons from the smoking tenor sax player in the band Morris McCraven, for some rhythm and blues sax technique. I also listen to singers to refine my sax ear. Etta Mae James has been my primary horn teacher this year. I listen to her soulful voice and play along and learn so much about phrasing, intonation, heartache and soul.

We toured the facilities because I had never been to the casino. It was the stop in the gift shop that got me thinking once again about cultural representations of our people. We found mostly southwestern Pueblo pottery and jewelry, Hopi kachina dolls, dream catchers, other tourist art, and OU and OSU swag. The only Mvskoke representation that I noted was t-shirts by the artist Jackson Narcomey.

We want people to walk away with something in hand that carries an emblem, symbol, something that says, 'this is something of the essence of meaning of Mvskoke people.' We have many artists. Their art needs to be here, and artists can work with designers to develop swag that is directly related culturally. I understand there was artist representation at initial planning meetings and our artists were to be featured. Many of our artists would be willing to be on a committee to assist in implementing this. We need to change this now.

My cousin George Coser Jr. stopped by the other day with a young man, who was driving him around, because George's car was in the shop from a wreck. This young man impressed me because he is a good listener. Listening is an art; it is not passive. The best listeners can hear what the winds say; can hear animals talk; and can hear what is unspoken. This makes good listeners even more helpful in this world that needs all the help we can give.

"Listening is an art; it is not passive. The best listeners can hear what the winds say; can hear animals talk; and can hear what is unspoken.

"This makes good listeners even more helpful in this world that needs all the help we can give."

We got into a discussion about hearts and the healing of the heart. George recalled that an acupuncturist told him that it was good that he sang; because when he sang it vibrated all the organs. This made a lot of sense to me. When we speak we literally send out vibrations. Our words are literally bringing what we say into the world whether we speak positively or negatively. These words also touch others, especially those for whom they are intended. Even thoughts make vibrations. Then I start thinking of our dreams and how they vibrate us; and ask, where do all our dreams come from? Each of us is part of a large ancestral field representing our ancestor dreams, even animal, element and star dreams.

That's how I see it this morning when the sun has broken through finally from winter gray. We just have to keep listening to keep learning. We may not the best listeners but we have to keep trying.

- Joy Harjo Feb. 12, 2014 the Mvskoke Nation

MCN Community and Tribal Events

Wild Onion Dinner set for March 1

HOLDENVILLE, Okla. — The Salt Creek United Methodist Church Annual Wild Onion Dinner is set for March 1 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Holdenville Creek Indian Community Center at 224 Popular, Holdenville, OK.

All you can eat dinners are $10 for adults and $5 for children 10 and under.

Arts and crafts booths are available. For more information contact Doug Scott at: 405-379-3125.

Symposium on Muskogean history set for March 5-7

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A symposium on Muskogean history and culture is set for March 5-7 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Mound Building on the MCN Tribal Complex.

Everyone is invited to attend this event hosted by the MCN Department of Cultural Preservation.

Spring revival set for March 6-8

SAPULPA, Okla. — Covenant Harvest Ministries has set a spring revival for March 6-8 at 7 p.m. nightly at 722 N. Hodge Sapupla, OK 74066.

The speakers are Pastors Fred Lowe, Robert Lay Jr. and Danny Faulkner.

Language Training event RSVP deadline set for March 7

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) Nation Language Preservation Program has set a Train the Trainer event for March 18 from 9 a.m.- 3 p.m. at the MCN Human Development Building on the MCN Tribal Complex.

Fluent Mvskoke language speakers are invited to come and receive language teacher training from individuals already qualified in language instruction.

Lunch will be provided and the registration deadline is March 7 at 5 p.m. To RVSP call Judy Montiel at: 918-732-7724 or Minnie Proctor at: 918-732-7725.

SCIC Spring Fling set for March 8

SAPUPLA, Okla. — A Native American Spring Fling is set for 10 p.m., March 8 at the Sapulpa Creek Indian Community Center, 1020 N. Brown, Sapulpa, OK 74066.

A youth group will be serving wild onions, grape dumplings, frybread, sofke and much more.

For more information call SCIC at: 918-227-9627.

SCIC Election set for March 10

SAPULPA, Okla. — An election for the Sapupla Creek Indian Community Board election is set for March 10 at 7 p.m. for the treasurer and membership committee positions and a community meeting will follow.

Dinner will be served at 6 p.m.

Wild Onion dinner set for March 15

COWETA, Okla. — A wild onion dinner is set for March 15 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Davis Chapel United Methodist Church.

The price is $7 per plate and includes a dessert and drink. For more information contact Paul Tecumseh at: 918-270-0231.

Wild Onion Dinner Set for March 15

TULSA, Okla. — A wild onion dinner is set for March 15 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Haikey Chapel United Methodist Church.

The price is $8 for adults and $5 for children.

MCN Citizenship to issue cards at OCMA March 18

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Citizenship Board will be at the Oklahoma City Muscogee (Creek) Association office, 4111 N. Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City, OK., March 18 from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. to update citizenship cards and for new enrollments.

If needed, bring any supporting documents such as name changes new enrollment etc.

For more information contact the OCMA office on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at: 405-605-2621.

Revival Set for March 19-22

OKEMAH, Okla. — A revival is set for March 19-22 at Greenleaf Baptist Church in Okemah.

Services will begin at 7 p.m. nightly with Ed Beaver as the featured speaker.

Benefit stompdance set for March 22

OKEMAH, Okla. — A spring benefit stompdance is set for March 22 at the Okemah Fairgrounds with a food sale beginning at 6 p.m. and the dance at 7 p.m.

The MC will be Felix Brown Jr. and donations are appreciated.

For more information call Richard Beaver at: 918-955-1123 or Betty Harjo at: 918282-1262.

Annual Wild Onion Dinner Set for March 22

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Concharty United Methodist Church Annual Wild Onion Dinner is set for March 22 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at 19040 Garfield Rd., Okmulgee, OK.

The price is $10 for adults including to go plates and children 10 and under cost $6.

GIC Blues Jam set for March 20 and 27

GLENPOOL, Okla. — The Glenpool Indian Community is hosting a blues jam session and workshop starting in March on Thursdays at 7 p.m.

The first two sessions are set for March 20 and 27 at the GIC community center in the small building, east off of U.S. Highway 75 in north Glenpool.

For more information contact Selby Minner at: 918-855-0978.

Wild Onion Dinner set for March 29

BROKEN ARROW, Okla. — A wild onion dinner is set for March 29 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Broken Arrow Indian United Methodist Church, 20854 E. 141 St., Broken Arrow, OK.

Dinners are $10 and include onions, beans, corn, meat, frybread, beverages and desserts.

Seeking Native American arts and crafts

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Local citizen looking to purchase wholesale authentic Native made goods.

Those interested should contact Donna at: 918-361-0749.

MCN 4-H D.C. trip registration deadline set for April 1

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation 4-H Program is sponsoring a trip Jun. 21-28 to Washington, D.C., for program members 13-years-old and over.

MCN 4-H Program participants are eligible for this trip at no cost. Deadline for registration is April 1.

For more information or to sign up for the 4-H Program contact MCN 4-H Program Project Manager Billy Haltom at: 918-732-7628.

MCN Behavioral Health to host Youth Summit April 3

TULSA, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Behavioral Health Program invites you to the Third Annual Native Heroes of Hope Youth Summit April 3 at the Tulsa Air and Space Museum.

The event is available for 7th-10th graders and limited to 150 youth plus chaperones. Registration will be coming soon.

For more information, contact Lindsley Harry or Natalie Barnett at the Sapulpa Behavioral Health Office 918-224-9307.

MCN National Day of Prayer set for April 5

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Day of Prayer and Fasting has been set for April 5 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the MCN Mound Building. Everyone is invited.

Checotah Native Art Market set for April 5

CHECOTAH, Okla. — The first annual Checotah Native Art Market is set for April 5 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Heartland Heritage Center Museum and Gallery, 116 N. Broadway, Checotah, OK 74426.

Both spaces are $10. All items must be made by the applicant and there will be no refunds for no shows. The deadline to apply is April 3.

For more information contact Frankie Blagg at: 918-916-9015 or Jon Tiger at: 918-850-3806.

OneFire Holding Company to host job fairs

Media Release

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council passed NCA 13-291 during the October 2013 quarterly session authorizing start up funding for OneFire Holding Company LLC.

OneFire has scheduled the following job fairs to build a job bank and skill center:

March 12 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at 400 RiverWalk Terrace, Suite 100, Jenks, OK.

March 13 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Okmulgee Indian Community Center, 2701 N. Miami Ave., Okmulgee, OK.

March 13 from 1 p.m.-5 p.m. at the Okemah Indian Community Center, 1100 S. Woody Guthrie St., Okemah, OK.

All citizens are encouraged to bring current resumes to one of these job fairs. Hiring preference will be given to Muscogee (Creek) citizens.

For more information contact Brenda Golden at: 918-758-6773.

Jim Thorpe Games set for June 8-14

SHAWNEE, Okla. — The third annual Jim Thorpe Native American games are set for June 8-14 at different venues throughout Shawnee.

Athletes representing over 70 Indian nations, bands and tribes from across the U.S. will gather to share their talents in the spirit of the "World's Greatest Athlete" and Native American Legend, Jim Thorpe.

Over 1,500 Native American athletes are expected to participate in 10 different sports throughout the week that will include basketball, softball, tennis, wrestling, track and field, cross country, golf, martial arts, beach volleyball, and stickball and lacrosse exhibitions.

For more information about the games call: 405-208-9253 or info@jimthorpegames.com or visit their website at: www.jimthorpegames.com.

MCN Southern Regional Office March schedule

MCN SRO*/Media Release*

WETUMKA, Okla. — The following is the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Southern Regional Office schedule for March.

March 3 - Summer Youth
1-5 p.m.

March 4 - Tax Commission
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Lunch 11-11: 30 a.m.

March 5 - Citizenship
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

National Council
9 a.m.-3 p.m.

March 11 - Tax Commission
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Lunch 11-11: 30 a.m.

March 14 - Women Infants and Children clinic
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

March 17 - Summer Youth
9 a.m.-5 p.m.

March 18 - Tax Commission
Closed

March 25 - Tax Commission
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Lunch 11-11: 30 a.m.

March 28 - Women Infants and Children clinic
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

For more information contact the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Southern Regional Office at: 405-452-1100.

SRO Employment and Training at: 405-452-1106

SRO Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (appointment only) at: 1-800-483-1979

SRO WIC (2nd and 4th Fridays) at: 1-800-684-2302.

NOTICE

Reagan Smith Energy Solutions, Inc. of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma is seeking contact with and/or information concerning the whereabouts of the following persons regarding an oil and gas lease in Sec. 9-07N-11E, Hughes County, Oklahoma:

Heirs of Houston Yahola, Full Blood Creek Roll No. 349
Heirs of Mandy Coffee Yahola Harjo
Heirs of Amos Coffee
Heirs of Martha Coffee
Heirs of Effie Coffee

If you are listed above or have information regarding the whereabouts of such persons, please contact us at the following number:

Reagan Smith Energy Solutions, Inc.
1219 Classen Dr.
Oklahoma City, OK 73103
Call 1.866.551.7913

NOTICE

Reagan Smith Energy Solutions, Inc. of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma is seeking contact with and/or information concerning the whereabouts of the following persons regarding an oil and gas lease in Sections 8 & 9-07N-11E, Hughes County, Oklahoma:

Heirs of Ewnah J. Tiger, FB Creek Roll No. 148

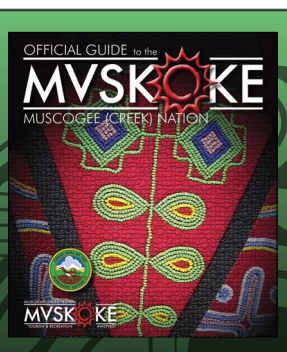
If you are listed above or have information regarding the whereabouts of such persons, please contact us at the following number:

Reagan Smith Energy Solutions, Inc.
1219 Classen Dr.
Oklahoma City, OK 73103
Call 1.866.551.7913

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Muscogee (Creek) director accepts federal position in D.C.

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Muscogee Nation News

Official publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and a production of Mvskoke Media

MCN delegates represent indigenous people of North America

March 15, 2014
Vol. 44, Issue 6
"Tasahcuce"
Little Spring

Representatives celebrate cultures of First Peoples

Jessica McBride/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizens travelled to Nicaragua Feb. 10-16 to serve as representatives of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and the indigenous peoples of North America for the opening of the Centro Cultural Nicaraguenese Norteamericano Bi-National Cultural Center in Managua, Nicaragua.

The cultural center will serve as a living tribute to the heritage of the indigenous people of Nicaragua and include classrooms for English language instruction, art and music.

"They're all about preserving the culture, the art, the history and the language of the countries that they set up in," InnerCHANGE WORKS President Janet Foerster said. "It's a sharing of culture, history and art between the two nations."

Foerster, who is a Muscogee (Creek) citizen, facilitated and organized this cultural exchange opportunity with the MCN representatives, the U.S. Embassy in Nicaragua and CCNN.



Submission

A Monimbo elder and chief exchanges stories and gifts with Alabama Quassarte Ceremonial Ground Mekko Bobby Yargee during a cultural exchange trip in which Muscogee (Creek) citizens, including Yargee and Muscogee (Creek) Nation Museum, Cultural Center and Archives Assistant Director Justin Giles (just over Yargee's shoulder); represented the indigenous people of North America in the opening of the Centro Cultural Nicaraguenese Norteamericano Bi-National Cultural Center in Managua, Nicaragua.

InnerCHANGE WORKS is a U.S.-based non-profit organization that has been working in Nicaragua for over nine years in community development programs and projects.

The U.S. Embassy in Nicaragua requested the presence of Native Americans in the U.S. to participate in the celebration of First Peoples.

The Muscogee (Creek) ambassadors included: Assistant Director of the MCN Museum, Cultural Center and Archives Justin Giles, MCN Department of Community and Human Services Director Cherrah Giles, Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town Mekko Bobby Yargee and his wife, Lesah Deere-Yargee and Director of the

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NMAI interviews Muscogee (Creek) citizens for upcoming exhibit

Removal told through a modern perspective

Amanda Rutland/*Media Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Only the creaking sounds from the aged floor of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Council House can be can be heard as Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian Education Product Developer Ed Schupman sets up and tests video equipment.

Schupman is a member of a three-person team gathering content locally to include in an upcoming exhibit in Washington, D.C.

The exhibit will include some of the treaties tribes made with the U.S. government. The team is focusing the media on the removal period to give another angle to the exhibit.

"It will be a short media piece; so we can't cover the whole spectrum of the story; but to give people a sense from leaders like Chief Tiger," Schupman said. "And we hope that Mekko Thompson is going to come; and from a woman's perspective; and you know; from elder perspectives and kind of about that story of removal."



MNN/Amanda Rutland

Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian Education Product Developer Ed Schupman interviews Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger Feb. 25, at the MCN Council House in downtown Okmulgee about the removal period for a media piece that will be part of an upcoming exhibit.

He said that the content will also be used in the educational materials developed for kindergarten through 12th grade, which will be accessible online and provide a more comprehensive look at removal.

Schupman said he wants to share how removal affected tribal people.

"First of all; everybody thinks that removal is only the Cherokee Trail of Tears. They don't understand that there were many removals; and so we are giving them an example of another. And as a tribal citizen; for me it means to be able to tell the Muscogee story," Schupman said.

Schupman said that people tend to talk more about the policies that lead up to removal.

"Secondly, when they do talk about the Cherokee removal; it's kind of at the surface level," Schupman said.

NMAI Producer Gussie

NMAI - 2

$550K approved for MCN Festival during Council session

Program fund expenditure approved for home repairs

Kyla McKown/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A regular session of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council was held Feb. 22 at the MCN Mound Building in Okmulgee.

The Council addressed the following legislation:

- TR 14-001 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs application for a business lease on restricted property regarding the Okmulgee Indian senior citizens operating the gift shop within the MCN Tribal Complex. Rep. Darrell Proctor sponsored the resolution, which passed 9-0 with five abstentions from: Reps. David Hill, Robert Hufft, Mitch Jack, Mark Randolph and Lucian Tiger.
- TR 14-010 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of understanding between the MCN, Alabama Quassarte Tribal Town, Kialegee Tribal Town and Thlopthlocco Tribal Town for the method of allocation for the Nation's proportional share of funding for housing and urban development funds and the Indian Housing Block Grant. Tiger sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.
- TR 14-011 Authorizing the principal chief to execute an electronic data interchange application with Palmetto GBA and an electronic data interchange enrollment with Novitas Solutions for the submittal, remittance and posting of payments from the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services to the MCN Department of Health. Rep. Dode Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

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MvskokeMedia

MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

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Tourism and Recreation releases guide to Mvskoke Nation

Publication covers 'all things Mvskoke'

Kyla McKown/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Tourism and Recreation has created and designed the 'Official Guide to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.'

The 35-page guide was created to offer citizens and noncitizens a look at the MCN and some of its endeavors.

"We wanted to create a publication for citizens and noncitizens so they would know what our tribe is about; what we did; what we provide and what we own," T&R Project Specialist Brian On-The-Hill said.

On-The-Hill, who created the artwork and researched and developed the guide; said it was about a five-month project and a collaborative effort involving everyone in T&R.

"Lots of conversations; lots of time creating all the artwork," On-The-Hill said. "But everything in the guide is an outcome of conversations from our department. It was a team effort."

The guide, which is free to anyone, includes: Mvskoke history, government, travel, entertainment and, "all things Mvskoke."

The guides are available for MCN departments and entities to handout to anyone.

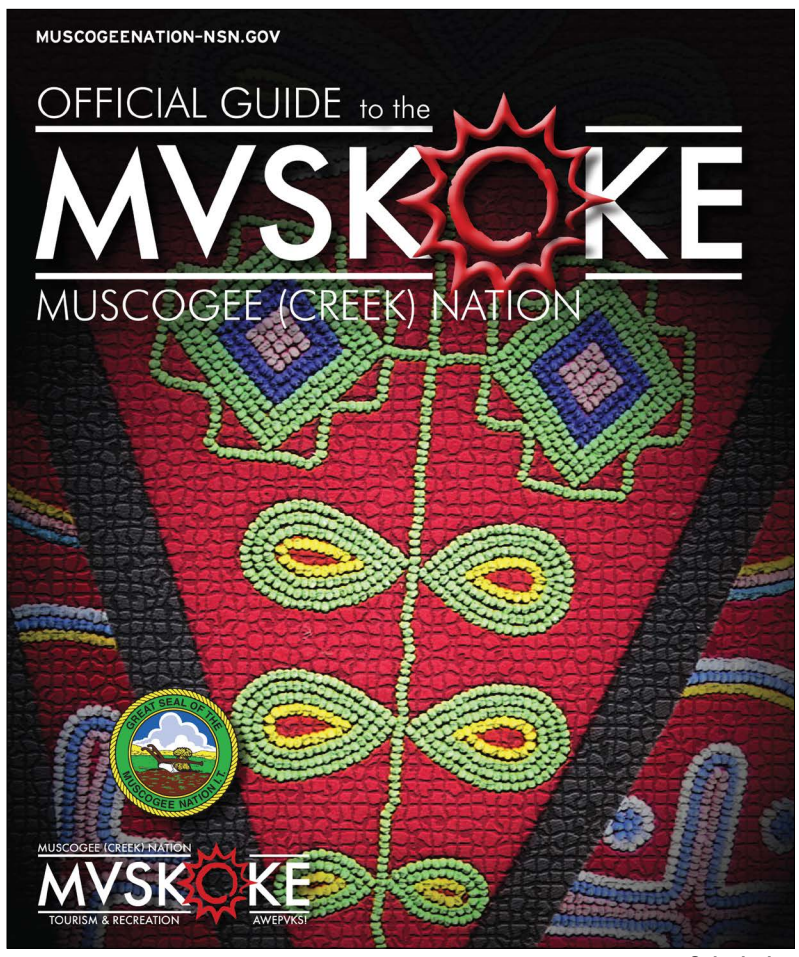
MCN Tourism and Recreation Director Will Lowe said he believes it's important to inform citizens and noncitizens about services offered by MCN and what economic developments the Nation operates.

"See, internally; citizens know current administration is very aggressive in economic development and purchasing. Lowe said. "And I think the guide really sums it up. It doesn't much hit on the medical side but they can get a feel of what direction we're moving into and it even contains the tribe's vision."

Although the guide has just been released, Lowe and On-The-Hill have already discussed updating the guide in the future as new ventures and assets develop.

Currently, the guide is not available online but can be ordered through the Oklahoma Department of Tourism and Recreation at: www.travelok.com.

Those who are unable to stop by the MCN Tribal Complex in Okmulgee, Okla., or the Southern Regional Office in Wetumka, Okla.; can have guides mailed to them by calling T&R at: 918-732-7992.



Submission

The 'Official Guide to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation' was created and published as a free guide to the MCN for Muscogee (Creek) citizens and noncitizens.

RIP helps inmates, victims with accountability class



MNN/Darren DeLaune

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Reintegration Program Case Manager Carrie Wyatt helps an inmate with paperwork.

Course helps offenders see error of their ways

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

BOLEY, Okla. — According to a poll from the Bureau of Justice website: www.bjs.gov, out of nearly 300,000 prisoners released from 15 states in 1994; 67.5 percent were rearrested within three years. A similar study released in 1983 estimated around a 62.5 percent recidivism rate.

In 2007, a total of 1,180,469 persons on parole were at-risk of reincarceration. Of these parolees, about 16 percent were reincarcerated in 2007.

That is a significant improvement than the findings from the early '90s.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Reintegration Program is trying to improve those statistics among tribal citizens through their classes. They have a course that encourages inmates to accept accountability for their crimes.

The 13-week course is called the Victim's Impact Class. The class has 13 courses, which focus on 10 core crime topics.

The class is geared toward helping offenders take responsibility for their actions and become more aware of the impact their crime has on victims.

"In order for the inmates to be able to get out and move forward, they will first have to hold themselves accountable for the crimes that they have done," RIP Case Manager Carrie Wyatt said. "They also need to realize what their crimes do to the victims as well."

Most detention facilities do not provide rehabilitation services for inmates.

Wyatt feels that while they are incarcerated; inmates need to understand the implications of their actions and own up to them.

"Majority of the inmates are sitting around and serving their time," Wyatt said. "They can get the help that they need to learn what put them in prison or jail. It can better help them for when they get out and do not repeat the crime."

RIP has been doing the classes for over two years. Over 100 offenders have attended, and only one did not finish the course.

"It is successful," Wyatt said. "We hope to keep it going. I want everyone finishing the class and graduating."

Wyatt feels this is the first and most important step towards rehabilitation; when inmates understand and hold themselves accountable for what they have done.

"Once they are aware of what their actions have done and who it has affected; they will start to rethink what they did to the victim or victims," Wyatt said.

Wyatt acknowledged the difficulty of this.

"I always stress that change is not easy at all," Wyatt said. "It is a process and an event. This takes time, motivation and work; and every person is capable of it; if they work at it."

"I have learned a lot being a part of this class," classmate and Muscogee (Creek) citizen Cheto Lara said. "I never paid attention at how much a crime that I do affects the victim and everyone that is around me."

For more information on the Victim Impact Class, call: 918-652-2676.

NICARAGUA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

MCN Department of Tourism and Recreation William Lowe.

During their time in Nicaragua, representatives took part in the ceremonial opening of the cultural center, a gift exchange and roundtable discussions about issues concerning indigenous people.

"They wanted to bring people from a Native American background in the U.S. and bring indigenous people from Nicaragua together to do spiritual blessings and cleansings of the new building; and traditional practices from both sides," Foerster said.

MCN representatives also met with youth and children participating in a theater and educational program of InnerCHANGE WORKS.

The U.S. Embassy sponsored Justin Giles, Bobby Yargee and Lesah Deere-Yargee through a federal assistance award. Lowe was able to secure funding through his department; and Cherrah Giles personally funded her trip.

Justin Giles said the trip was 'historic' and beneficial to all of the representatives.

Though the indigenous peoples represented originate from different countries, Justin Giles said that the groups were similar in their corn-based foods, stories and the current issues they face.

"Recognition, language loss, culture loss, domestic abuse, all the same facets that we struggle with here," Justin Giles said. "… we actually felt like we haven't even travelled out of our own country because these people are so similar; if not exactly the same."

Justin Giles said that the representatives were inspired by meeting other Natives in Nicaragua.

"They do so much there with no resources," Justin Giles said. "We have so much here. We should be able to do so much ourselves; and we forget that sometimes… sometimes it is a perspective of going back to your indigenous roots and remembering who you are as an indigenous person and an indigenous culture."

NMAI

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Lehman said they chose to feature the MCN removal story because it was well documented.

"For this exhibit, one of the key things was that we had good scholarship behind the exhibition," Lehman said, "So, that allowed us to have a very clear scholarship trail which allowed us tell the Muscogee story in a way that other people might question. If you don't have that scholarship behind it; then people go, 'oh, that didn't really happen.' "

MCN Principal Chief George Tiger was the first to be interviewed. Tiger said it is an honor to be part of this project.

"Anytime we are given the opportunity to talk about the topic of Trail of Tears or whatever we can do to educate the general public; I think is a good opportunity and I see this as a continuation of the educational process again of who we are and what we stand for," Tiger said.

COUNCIL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

• TR 14-012 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a TRICARE for Life EDI claims agreement with Wisconsin Physicians Service Insurance Corporation for claims submissions of the MCN DOH. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

• TR 14-013 Confirming the nomination of Paula Willits to serve on the Gaming Operations Authority Board. Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 9-5 with Rep. Frank Coachman, Jack, Randolph, Tiger and Barnett voting against it.

• TR 14-014 Authorizing the principal chief to execute advisory program account client agreements and application documents on behalf of the MCN with Wells Fargo advisors for the purpose of opening advisory program accounts with the Nation's permanent fund. Hill sponsored the resolution, which failed 0-14.

• TR 14-015 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a temporary operating permit and related contracts with the Public Service Company of Oklahoma. Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.



MNN/Gary Fife
William Lowe, Director of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Tourism and Recreation discussed the budget for the 40th annual MCN Festival during a regular session of the MCN National Council Feb. 22 at the MCN Mound Building in Okmulgee.

• NCA 14-019 Authorizing a donation of $19,725 to the town of Clearview, Okla. Coachman sponsored the amendment, which was postponed 14-0.

• NCA 14-022 Authorizing a supplemental appropriation of $325,000 to the Higher Education Doctorate Degree Program fiscal year 2014 budget. Reps. Pete Beaver and Johnnie Greene sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

• NCA 14-023 Authorizing a donation of $2,000 to financially assist Okmulgee Public Schools. Rep. James Jennings sponsored the amendment, which was postponed 14-0.

• NCA 14-024 Authorizing a donation of $5,000 to Native American Link Inc. Rep. Shirlene Ade sponsored the amendment, which was postponed 12-2 with Barnett and Randolph voting against it.

• NCA 14-025 Authorizing a special appropriation of $810.25 to a Muscogee (Creek) citizen. Jack and Tiger sponsored the amendment, which was postponed 14-0.

• NCA 14-026 Amending MCN Code Annotated Title 16, Chapter 9, Tribal Employment Rights Office Act, Sections 9-103, 9-105, 9-129, 9-130 and 9-135. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

• NCA 14-027 Authorizing the principal chief to expend housing program income for the repair of private owned homes and repealing NCA 13-248, authorizing the principal chief to expend housing program income for the transport and setup of 50 housing and urban development compliant mobile homes. Rep. Joyce Deere sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

• NCA 14-029 Appropriating funds of $550,000 for the MCN Festival and repealing NCA 02-051 and its amendments NCA 02-073 and NCA 02-046, appropriating funds for the 28th Annual MCN Festival. Coachman sponsored the amendment, which passed 8-6 with Rep. David Nichols, Barnett, Jennings, Proctor, Randolph and Tiger voting against it.

• NCA 14-031 Authorizing a donation of $20,000 to the National Indian Child Welfare Association to sponsor the 32nd Annual "Protecting Our Children" National American Conference on child abuse and neglect. Ade sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

Rep. Adam Jones was absent.

Council representative features: Robert Hufft



MNN File Photo
Robert Hufft, reelected Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Tulsa District Seat A representative.

Second speaker reflects on years of service

Jessica McBride/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Robert Hufft recalls working for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation in different capacities. He began working for the executive director in 1976 right out of college, which continued for two and a half years.

After pursuing a few other opportunities, now former Principal Chief Bill Fife asked Hufft to be on the gaming board where he served for four years.

"Once I got involved with the gaming board, I started seeing that there was more to the tribe than just the casino part; the part about being on the Council to make a difference to my tribe," Hufft said.

Hufft, who is also Euchee, then ran for National Council in 1997, and served through 2005 when he lost the election.

Hufft said that being defeated helped give him a different outlook and renew his drive for serving citizens.

"I should've gotten beat… I just burned out," Hufft said. "I regrouped myself and said you know; I need to focus."

Hufft has served as the second speaker for the National Council for his past two terms.

One of Hufft's memories while serving on the Council, is the Nation's switch from bingo halls to class three gaming.

When it comes to serving on the National Council, Hufft said that he considers what will be best for MCN when he makes his vote. He also addresses life with the concept of always knowing, 'why'.

"When you do something; know why you're doing it. Don't just do it because it's the right thing to do; or you think it's the right thing to do," Hufft said.

Hufft said that the words that describe him are honesty, integrity and character.

During this session, Hufft hopes to work on a website for the National Council so that citizens will have the ability to interact with representatives and keep up with legislation.

In his years of service, Hufft has learned how to work with different opinions and personalities.

"I've learned to be able to communicate to different people; and how to listen and learn to accept that everyone has a different opinion and it's just a matter of how you accept those opinions," Hufft said.

Hufft believes that this translates to his ability to try to help citizens receive answers to their problems.

"I've been through the gambit; so I can appreciate and understand different citizens needs at different levels," Hufft said.

Hufft is a graduate of Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Okla.; with a bachelor's degree in accounting.

Hufft is a member of the Deer Clan.



Challenge Bowl concludes with middle school competition



MNN/Kyla McKown

The Muscogee (Creek) Challenge Bowl Middle School Division winners (left to right): Beggs Cepanes Cate - third place, Glenpool Blue – first place and Beggs No-Names second place who were also the recipients of the Wilbur "Geebon" Gouge Honors Team Award.

Glenpool schools sweep all divisions

Kyla McKown/*MNN Reporter*

BEGGS, Okla. — The middle school division participants competed Feb. 25 at Beggs First Baptist Church, as part of the final portion of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Challenge Bowl sponsored by the MCN Johnson O'Malley Program.

The Glenpool Blue team took first place and with this victory; Glenpool Public Schools swept the competition in every division.

With the middle school division being the last match of the 15th Annual Challenge Bowl, MCN employees and other volunteers have packed up until next year.

MCN Johnson O'Malley Program Manager Regina Keith said it takes a number of people and volunteers to make this event possible.

"I basically just oversee that things get taken care of," Keith said. "We have Koko Lowe; she volunteers in the rooms and has been here since the beginning. Every committee member has a function. We couldn't function without the committee and couldn't function without volunteers."

Keith, along with about 15-20 others from various MCN departments, is on the core committee; which meets once or twice a month prior to the competition to plan.

Keith, who has been helping with the event since 2008, attended her first Challenge Bowl in 1999 as a coordinator for Morris Public Schools.

Keith isn't the only one who has made an effort to help out over the years.

Executive Associate for the MCN Principal Chief, Koko Lowe, has helped with 14 of the last 15 competitions. She said she believes the Challenge Bowl competitions are a positive opportunity for schools students.

"I love watching the children; to see how much they've learned their Mvskoke history; their Creek words," Lowe said. "The way they carry themselves and show their positive behavior and how they assist us with cleaning up; gathering trash. You can tell they've been brought up good to do stuff like that."

Another volunteer veteran of the competitions is Melinda Deerinwater, MCN Housing Division Assistance Operator.

Deerinwater, who has helped out the last 13 years with the event, said it's all for the children.

"Oh my goodness, it's all for the kids," Deerinwater said. "You've got to have the love for the kids and it's just a fun thing to do. We learn just as much as the kids do each competition."

Deerinwater is over the volunteers for the competitions. She said this year; there were about 50 volunteers who were able to help in all three division competitions along with about 150 employees.

"They just come on their own because they're like me and like working with the kids," Deerinwater said.

Keith said the core planning committee and JOM work year-round on the Challenge Bowl and will begin working on the 16th annual event for next year.

Muscogee (Creek) citizen shares love of lacrosse



MNN/Kyla McKown

Coaches Shelby Wellner (foreground) and Justin Giles huddle with the Jenks Trojans High School Lacrosse team Feb. 19 during a match against Holland Hall at Holland Hall Stadium in Tulsa, Okla. The Trojans won the match 15-13.

Giles heads first public school Lacrosse club in Oklahoma

Kyla McKown/*MNN Reporter*

JENKS, Okla. — A Muscogee (Creek) citizen who grew up in Washington D.C., helped keep Mvskoke culture alive in his daily life by joining a lacrosse team.

Justin Giles was unable to play stickball in D.C., but after a book report in fourth grade on lacrosse, Giles realized lacrosse was a similar game that was also known as an Indian sport.

Giles signed up to play lacrosse in the fifth grade and from then on; he played on the varsity team in high school and eventually went on to play at the University of Virginia where he received a lacrosse scholarship.

In 1996, he played during the World Lacrosse Championship in Japan.

Giles received a degree in anthropology from the University of Virginia and continued to share lacrosse and its history with students from different schools.

Up until Giles' return to Oklahoma, he had had a dream to promote lacrosse in Oklahoma as well.

"I moved back here and first thing I did on the way over was I searched on Google for Tulsa lacrosse and seen they had a men's league," Giles said. "And I thought, 'Man that's where I want to be.' And I started playing with them and started a Tulsa youth league and I've been coaching there for a few years."

Giles just recently coached his first lacrosse game as head coach for the Jenks High School lacrosse team, which he has been able to build.

"My whole vision is to bring lacrosse to the high school level here," Giles said. "And what better way to do that than at an athletic powerhouse like Jenks."

Jenks Lacrosse Assistant Coach Shelby Wellner has worked with Giles to start up the program and is just as proud as Giles about the turnout.

"Becoming the first public school to have a lacrosse team feels unbelievably amazing," Wellner said.

The team, which just kicked off its season, has about 25 players. Giles said that's an impressive number for a club starting out.

The Trojans lacrosse will compete in 18 games this season. The team was able to pull out a win after its first game Feb. 19 beating out Holland Hall 15-13.

Giles said he has big expectations for lacrosse in Oklahoma.

"We're showing a high school can marry into this and buy into the lacrosse brotherhood and the domino effect will happen," Giles said.

As of right now, Jenks is the only public school in the state to have a lacrosse program while a number of private schools around the state have had lacrosse for years.

"Holland Hall has had a lacrosse program for a number of years," Giles said. "We're the first public school here in Oklahoma. We're on a club level not on a school level; but on the verge right now."

Press conference announces dates for Jim Thorpe Games



MNN/Darren DeLaune

Executive Director of the Jim Thorpe Games Annetta Abbott held a press conference Feb. 18 at Oklahoma Baptist University Noble Complex in Shawnee, Okla., to announce details about this year's games.

Event to be held in new location, feature new event

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

SHAWNEE, Okla. — Representatives of the Jim Thorpe Games held a press conference Feb. 18 on Oklahoma Baptist University campus to announce the new home for the Jim Thorpe Games.

"We decided to move the games to Shawnee," Executive Director Annetta Abbott said.

The games are scheduled June 8-14 and locations for the different competitions include: St. Gregory's University, Firelake Golf Course and Shawnee High School.

"The distances are more compact here in Shawnee," Abbott said. "Everything will be close proximity; so everyone will be able to see their favorite sports."

Previously, the games were held in Oklahoma City. Abbott explained the move.

"Shawnee has welcomed us with open arms," Abbott said. "There is a huge Native American community here that supports all Native American athletes. The tribes here that surround Shawnee has been nothing but supportive also."

Over 1,500 Native American athletes will participate in sports, including: basketball, softball, tennis, wrestling, track and field, cross country, golf, martial arts and beach volleyball. Exhibitions are scheduled for stickball; and a new one this year, lacrosse.

The lacrosse exhibition is set for June 13, the night of the Jim Thorpe Native American All-Star Football Game. Members of the Iroquois National Lacrosse Team will be in attendance for the event, which will take place at Oklahoma Baptist University.

Assistant Director of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Museum, Cultural Center and Achieves Justin Giles spoke on having lacrosse added to the roster.

"It is fantastic," Giles said. "We have stickball that is already part of the Jim Thorpe Games and we want to introduce lacrosse to everyone here. It is an older and more indigenous sport here in North America and it is great that we get to showcase it for the Jim Thorpe Games."

"Shawnee has welcomed us with open arms. There is a huge Native American community here that supports all Native American athletes."

– Executive Director Annetta Abbott

This year, the Jim Thorpe Scholarship has also been added to the event and one male and one female will receive the award based on their athletic ability as well as their community and tribal involvement.

Students will also have to do an essay about what the games mean to them.

"We want to push these kids to a higher education," Abbott said. "So we feel this scholarship will be a big help for our children."

Shawnee Mayor Wes Mainord, expressed his feelings about having the games hosted in Shawnee.

"This is an exciting event that is going to be coming to our city," Mainord said. "We are honored having the games here and our goal is to do such a wonderful job that they will not want to go anywhere else."

For more information, visit: http://jimthorpegames.com.

MARCH OF THE GREEN ONES



Every Saturday in March
NOON - 8:00PM

$5 Match Play. Earn one electronic drawing ticket with every $50 coin in beginning March 1st. Electronic ticket drawings every 15 minutes from NOON - 8:00PM. The winner will spin a prize wheel. Prizes include: $100 Freeplay, $250 cash, or a Green Ones envelope for a prize up to $10,000 cash!

KEEP PLAYING TO KEEP WINNING! Electronic tickets carry over every Saturday this month!

MARDI GRAS

Friday March 7
NOON - 8:00PM

$5 Match Play. One (1) $50 Free Play Hot Seat prize drawings every 15 minutes from NOON - 8:00PM. One (1) $500 Cash Hot Seat prize drawings every hour from NOON - 8:00PM.

Each Diamond Club member will receive a free Mardi Gras promotional item.

Daylight Savings Dough!

Sunday March 9
NOON - 8:00PM

$5 Match Play. One (1) $50 Free Play Hot Seat prize drawing every 15 minutes from NOON - 8:00PM. One (1) $500 Cash Hot Seat prize drawings every hour from NOON - 8:00PM. Each Diamond Club member will receive a free promotional item.

St. Patricks Day SPECIALS

Monday March 17
4:00PM - 8:00PM

$5 Match Play. One (1) $50 Free Play Hot Seat prize drawings every 15 minutes from 4:00PM - 8:00PM. One (1) $500 Cash Hot Seat prize drawings every hour from 4:00PM - 8:00PM.

Each Diamond Club member will receive a T-shirt after earning 50 points.

Spring Fling

Friday March 21
NOON - 8:00PM

$5 Match Play. One (1) $50 Free Play Hot Seat prize drawings every 15 minutes from NOON - 8:00PM. One (1) Spring Fling hot seat prize drawings every hour from NOON - 8:00PM.

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Native renaissance man expresses thoughts, feelings through art



Submission

Muscogee (Creek) artist Randy Kemp's creations have been featured in galleries and museums around the U.S. and the world.

Muscogee (Creek) citizen inspired by culture

Jessica McBride/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — For some, art is a job; for others, art is a hobby. For Muscogee (Creek) citizen Randy Kemp, art encompasses his entire life.

"My kids, Raven and Rykelle, and even Beverly, are all very artistic. So we found different types of media to kind of express ourselves, our concerns; dealing with issues, cultural issues," Kemp said. "We've done it through art as far as painting, print making, media… all these sorts of areas that allow us to spread our concerns and ideas and so on."

Kemp, who is also Euchee and Choctaw, met his wife Beverly in college and was inspired by her to dig deeper into his Native culture.

"My wife is Navajo and speaks fluent Navajo," Kemp said. "And I was very interested in that because I come from a tribe, like the Euchee tribe; who is still trying to immerse their people into the language."

Kemp grew up in Los Angeles and his family use to travel back to Oklahoma during the summer for Greencorn. The distance from his tribe created a hunger in Kemp to immerse himself in his culture.

"Being in a far away city like that actually increased my need to understand who I was," Kemp said.

When he was 13-years-old, Kemp's family moved back to Oklahoma.

Kemp earned an Associate of Arts from Bacone College in Muskogee, Okla., and a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Arizona State University in Tempe, Ariz. He currently works as a graphic designer at ASU.

Kemp could be called a Native renaissance man; being versed in multiple artistic disciplines.

Kemp was featured in the January/February edition of 'Native Peoples' magazine as a contemporary, Native graphic artist.

At an ASU graduation ceremony in 2009, Kemp was selected to perform the prelude music with his flute for the commencement speaker, President Barack Obama.

Kemp has collaborated with other artists for musical compositions that are available at: www.radiohealer.com.

"It's a website and project that deals with technology and re-owning technology as indigenous people," Kemp said.

Kemp's flute skills are self-taught. The inspiration for Kemp to learn to make and play the flute was culturally motivated, and it was an outlet for him to transition from work to creating art at home.

Kemp's creations have been featured in galleries and museums around the U.S. and the world.

When it comes to culture and art, Kemp said that there is no separation.



Submission

According to Muscogee (Creek) artist Randy Kemp, his piece, 'Chief of Hearts,' could represent a passionate chief or a chief who has the hearts of his people.

"Art is a part of culture; culture is a part of art. It's the same fabric. You can't have one without the other," Kemp said. "The arts have always been important to any culture…"

Though Kemp considers himself a contemporary artist; he creates art through a cultural lens.

Kemp's art takes different forms; depending on how he feels the topic should be presented. From graphic design, to music, acting and the spoken word, Kemp looks for the best medium for his expression.

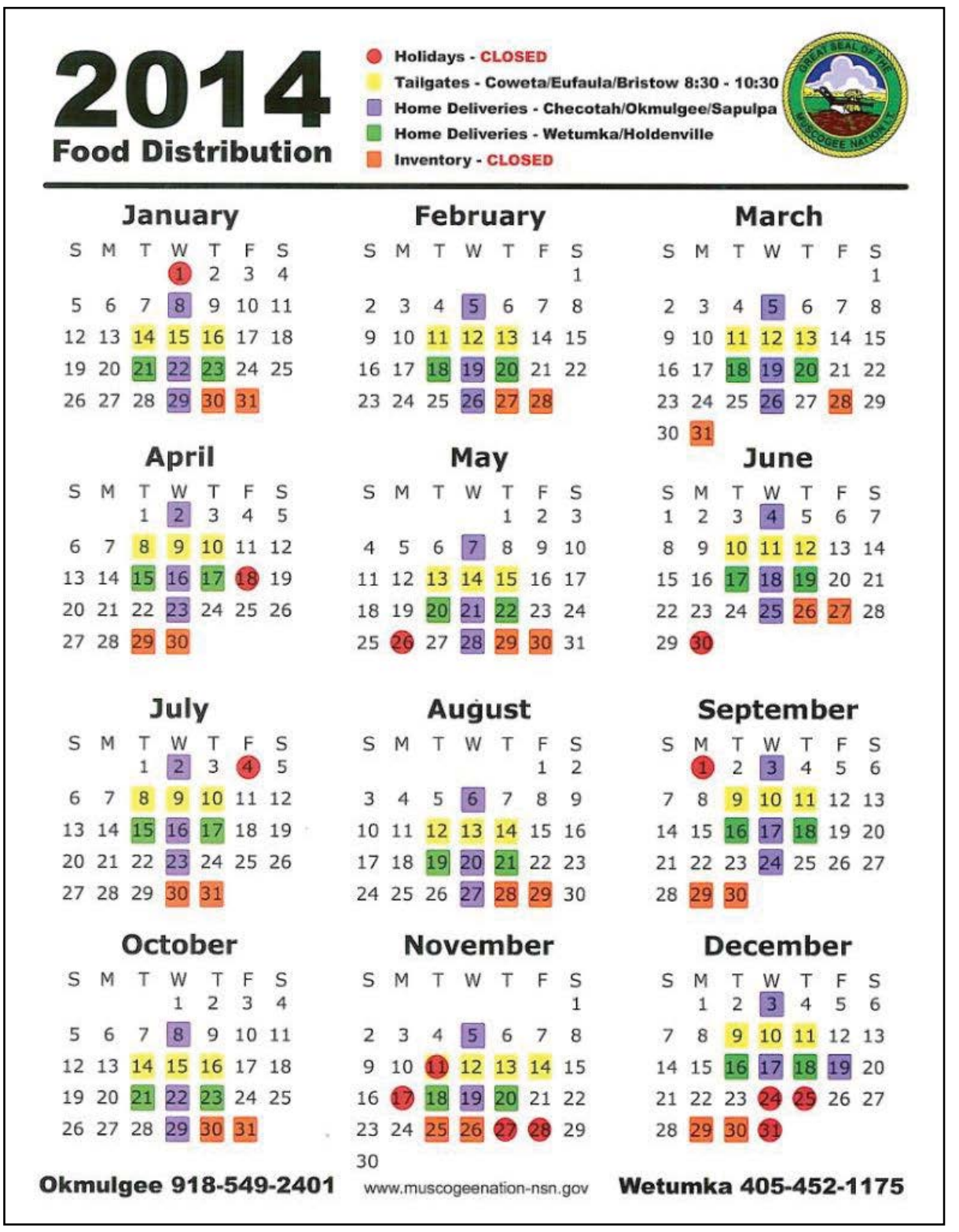
"Being a diverse artist allows you to kind of pick and choose from all of these things. And then you find the one that has the best voice for that action," Kemp said. "That's the job of an artist; is to find the best voice possible."

Kemp believes that distance should not impact one's relationship with their tribe.

"We're still very viable regardless of where we're at. We're still one tribe, geographically distributed," Kemp said.

To view some of the Kemp family artwork, visit: www.etsy.com/people/woodennickel1.

Kemp is member of the Turtle Clan, Polecat Ceremonial Ground and Tzo-Ya-Ha Tribal Town.



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Course informs MCN employees about Mvskoke history

Mandatory classes teach Nation's background to those who serve it

Kyla McKown/*MNN Reporter*



MNN/Amanda Rutland
Sandra Peters teaches a Mvskoke history course Feb. 14 to fellow Muscogee (Creek) Nation employees.

OKMULGEE, Okla. — As directed by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger, all MCN employees are required to take a four-hour course in Mvskoke history.

The classes will be taught throughout the next several months for all employees to attend and a certificate of completion will be given out.

The course covers the Mvskoke constitution, laws, language, clans and tribal towns, treaties and tribal government; including the Nation's government today.

MCN Tribal Administrator Jerry Wilson said the course covers more than 200 years of the Nation's history.

"Every employee ought to know something about Creek Nation; so when we have visitors; you can talk intelligently and serve as an ambassador," Wilson said. "But more importantly, every day you come to work; you think about what our ancestors went through and we hope it makes you work harder."

Wilson said it is also the perfect opportunity for Muscogee (Creek) employees to research their clan.

MCN Administrative Assistant to the Tribal Administrator, Sandra Peters, who teaches a block of the classes; said she believes it is imperative that the Nation provides a Mvskoke history course to employees.

"It brings us up to date to where we are today and surfaces back to very beginnings of our history as a Nation," Peters said. "Our people sometimes forget how great and mighty our confederacy was at one time; that they may not have understood all the treaties as they have come along and all of the different challenges. "

The other course instructor, Cindi Tiger, MJIL, said she is glad to be apart of the teaching experience.

"I'm just really honored to give you our history," Tiger said. "The way we had to struggle and come such a long way. I'm glad to teach that."

One of the focuses of the class is the social structure of the Mvskoke people in the past.

"So we Creek people as females, owned household and land and they were considered very important," Peters said. "The houses were groups of houses owned by the women."

The course also covers the differences between the Upper and Lower Creeks as well as the removal of Native Americans during the 1830 through the Indian Removal Act. About 3,500 Muscogee (Creek) people died during this removal known as the Trail of Tears, in which 23,000 tribal members were forced to move to the West.

The class is divided into four portions, which include: Pre-Removal, Indian Territory, Early Tribal Government and Contemporary Tribal Government.

The instructors also hold a discussion and story-telling period during the course.

MCN offers free homebuyer education class



MNN/Kyla McKown
Muscogee (Creek) Nation Mortgage Down Payment Specialist LaDonna Northcross addresses attendees of a First Time Homebuyer Education class Feb. 22; hosted by the MCN Housing Division at the Housing Authority Building in Okmulgee.

Lenders, realtors speak to first time homebuyers

Kyla McKown/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Housing Division hosted a First Time Homebuyer Education Class Feb. 22 at the MCN Housing Authority Building in Okmulgee.

The class was open to citizens and non-citizens; but particularly those signed up for MCN's Mortgage Down Payment and Closing Cost Program; also known as MAP.

MCN Mortgage Down Payment Specialist LaDonna Northcross said the course is required for those who are going through the MAP program.

MAP gives preference to Muscogee (Creek) citizens and provides all citizens of federally recognized tribes an opportunity to learn about a $25,000 federal grant available for first time homebuyers. These funds are to go toward closing costs and a down payment on mortgages.

The course is offered every two or three months and is free of charge.

Northcross, who has held these classes the past three years, said they could even be helpful to those who aren't first time homebuyers.

"Before the homebuyers class, we had citizens going out there looking for lenders and realtors and didn't know where to start," Northcross said. "Orientation is only about 30 minutes; so we're trying to cram eight hours of education to them before they go out. So that's how homebuyers education came around and we've worked out the kinks and it has been very helpful."

Northcross said the speakers are brought in at no cost to the tribe. A lender, realtor, credit counseling specialist and an environmental services specialist are brought in to share their respective areas of expertise when it comes to buying a house.

The course covers budgeting and how important it is when looking to buy a house.

"If you don't have a budget; you don't know where your money is going," Northcross said. "You need to have a budget in place. Nobody likes to budget but you need to in order to have savings too."

Between the lender and the credit specialist, the importance of credit for the MAP program is discussed.

Northcross also talks about how important credit is when buying a house.

"Credit basically determines your whole life," Northcross said. "It tells you what you're going to do; what you're going to purchase. Credit is a very important part of the MAP."

In the class, five important ways to rebuild your credit are discussed:

- Dispute credit report errors
- Pay down debt balances
- Apply for credit sparingly
- Pay your bills on time
- Refrain from closing old credit cards

"Nobody likes to budget but you need to in order to have savings too."

— LaDonna Northcross, MCN Housing Division Mortgage Down Payment Specialist

Northcross said sometimes it takes a year or more for citizens to come back with an improved credit score and reapply for MAP.

Aside from the homebuyers' class, the MCN Housing Division also offers assistance to those who don't qualify for MAP or other housing assistance programs.

She and other staff are available for general mortgage and housing questions on issues such as foreclosure. The Housing Division is able to assist with the paperwork aspect of foreclosures but is unable to help with funding for foreclosures because that falls under the MCN Social Services Department.

"I had an elder come in and she almost lost her home, she wasn't able to read loan modification papers," Northcross said. "If I can stop it before it gets to that point, especially the older ones that don't understand; we can get the payment down and fix the loan modification. She ended up not losing her home."

Northcross can be reached for questions regarding general home buying and ownership, MAP; or to sign up for the Homebuyer Education Class, at: 918-549-2554.

Transportation hosts long-range planning, safety meetings

Discussion helps public officials pinpoint, address unsafe roads

Chelsie Rich/*Project Specialist*



MNN/Chelsie Rich
Charley LaSarge, Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Transportation Program Manager, speaks at the long-range transportation plan public meeting Feb. 19 at the Best Western in Okmulgee, Okla.

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Transportation Program conducted a long-range transportation plan public meeting and hosted a safety plan scoping session Feb. 19 at the Best Western in Okmulgee, Okla.

The LRTP meeting discussed the future plans and projects of the MCN Transportation Program and Tribal Roads Department.

The LRTP Meeting informed the public of what current projects are going on, what the next project is and allowed the public to give input on the potential future projects they'd like to have completed.

Every year, a plan must be submitted with a list of projects for the next 20 years.

The projects placed on the list are then further investigated to decide which are more urgent and will have a greater impact.

"That's how we base our future projects and priorities," said Charley LaSarge, MCN Tribal Transportation Program Manager.

The Safety Planning Meeting was held to gather information from the public on roads that maybe unsafe due to condition.

The meeting also addressed a safety grant available from the Federal Highway Administration to help reconstruct roads in the MCN boundaries that are considered dangerous.

Representatives of the MCN Indian Communities, National Council and Emergency Management Team, Oklahoma Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, law enforcement as well as: school superintendents, county commissioners, city managers, mayors and other emergency management teams attended the meeting to give their input.

One area of concern discussed was speeding around school zones; where lights and speed bumps could be placed to make them safer.

Another concern addressed were dangerous intersections where people may not be able to see oncoming traffic.

"A prime example is Loop 56 and Mission that we hope to start this summer," said LaSarge.

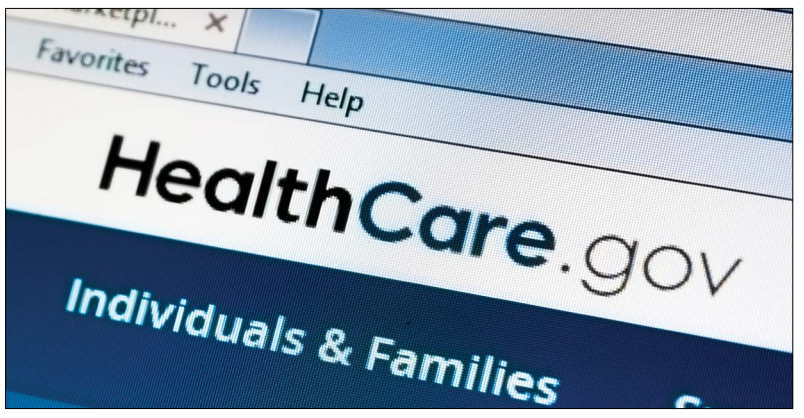
The Oklahoma DOT showed statics regarding how many wrecks, injuries and deaths occurred at this intersection.

MCN collaborated with Cross Timber Consulting LLC for the safety-planning meeting and is helping with the application process for the federal safety grant.

"After this meeting, we will go back and take all the information gathered… we're going to pick out the top 10 locations that are the most hazardous and do an engineering review so we can identify a fix for them," said Tom Edwards, President of Cross Timber Consulting LLC.

Once all the information is gathered and solutions are discussed the MCN Transportation Department will select a project to submit for the safety grant.

DOH encourages citizens to apply for ACA



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Under the Affordable Care Act, Native Americans can enroll in the Marketplace health insurance at anytime throughout the year.

Citizens could receive full coverage benefits at no cost

Kyla McKown/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Although Native Americans can be exempt from health insurance through the Affordable Care Act, many tribes including Muscogee (Creek) Nation are encouraging citizens to apply for Obamacare.

According to, Lt. Cmdr. Amy Eden, MCN Department of Health Revenue Cycle Manager, applying for Obamacare is not the same as enrolling.

"Some are getting full coverage for free if income is low enough," Eden said. "That's another reason we're encouraging citizens to at least go in and apply…It'll come back let you know what to offer and how much it costs; then you can either take it or opt out all together."

Eden said the MCN DOH and citizens would both benefit from citizens enrolling in a third-party insurer.

"It goes toward additional equipment; health and medical equipment," Eden said. "We're able to hire new staff, new providers if needed and just any supplies we may need."

Although the Contract Health Services funds are available to the tribe, Eden said it's only about half of what is needed to run Native health facilities.

"I think a lot of times our Contract Health Services, as helpful as they are, they are not funded as much as they need to be," Eden said. "So it's always good for patients to have that additional healthcare coverage in case contract health help isn't able to pay for the services."

Third-party billing of insurers would allow DOH to increase services so that there is not as much outsourcing to other providers.

"We're always looking toward increasing our services that would in turn provide patients more accessibility and also decrease contract health funds we use to actually send them out," Eden said. "So we'd much rather be able to provide the services here to our patients and that third-party would help us get to that point."

According to Eden, some Muscogee (Creek) citizens are able to get full coverage insurance at no cost and citizens are able to use any MCN healthcare facility, even if that facility is not on a list of their providers.

There are also benefits to the continuing use of MCN facilities.

"We understand their health," Eden said. "A lot of our providers are Native and take a lot of time to learn their health issues. Some health issues are really aimed toward Native Americans, such as diabetes. We have a higher percentage rate of them."

The Nation has at least one or two patient benefit coordinators at each health facility to help citizens apply and enroll for Obamacare.

And through a certification, these coordinators are also available to help noncitizens as well.

"We want to help Creek Nation; we wanted to be trained and certified for all the details and we became a Certified Applications Coordinator Organization," Eden said. "Because we did that it opens up to all the community not just Natives. So we're able to help the community as well."

For assistance with enrolling or applying for Obamacare, patient benefit coordinators are available at: the Sapulpa, Eufaula and Koweta Indian Health Centers, Creek Nation Community Hospital and Okmulgee Indian Clinic. For questions, contact Eden at: 918-756-4333 ext. 315.

Program helps give caregivers a break



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The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health Family Caregiver Support Program helps caregivers get a break from the duties of attending to their loved ones.

FCSP supports, educates caregivers

Jessica McBride/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — What will you do when your parents can no longer care for themselves? What is your plan as you age?

According to a report in 2004 by the National Alliance for Caregiving, an estimated 21 percent of households in the U.S. are affected by a caregiver situation.

A caregiver is a non-paid family member or friend who informally cares for an elder in their home. Typically this includes feeding, bathing and assisting them with their daily needs.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health Family Caregiver Support Program assists caregivers of Native American elders who live within the MCN jurisdiction. The program offers education and support services for caregivers to assist them with the day-to-day task of caring for their loved ones.

"It is just kind of a point in time to help that caregiver find the services they need; get any support that they need during that period of time and gives them an opportunity to get some relief and maybe find some long term answers," MCN DOH Chief Nursing Officer Annette James said.

Part of the support services includes a small, limited fund to pay for respite care; so that the primary caregiver can get a temporary break to complete housework, run errands or just have a day off.

"Often times a caregiver will get so wrapped up in trying to care for that individual because they take so much time and patience that they get stressed; and then their health declines," James said.

Funding is limited; so cases that present great social and economic need are given first priority. Assistance is also available for older individuals caring for children, with priority given to children with disabilities.

The goal of the program is to help individuals keep their loved ones at home and guide them toward resources they may need in the future; from information on long term care; to education on nutrition and end-of-life signs.

"We try to get information out there to prepare them for the future; you know, what possibly could take place with their loved one," FCSP Caregiver Coordinator Judith Pickering said.

FCSP also provides a support group so that caregivers can receive encouragement and comfort from others in similar situations. The support group is open to anyone and the meetings are held every third Thursday of the month at the MCN Elderly Nutrition Center in Okmulgee.

FCSP hopes to expand support group meetings to different areas of the MCN jurisdiction in the future.

Pickering is knowledgeable about tribal programs that will benefit caregivers. She also networks with other programs that might be beneficial to program participants.

Pickering can sympathize with caregivers because was a caregiver for her mother.

"I felt like I wanted to do that because she took care of me and I just wanted to return my love for her," Pickering said. "To me; it's rewarding to an individual; because while you're visiting with and taking care of them; you're learning a lot from them."

The program is funded with a grant through Title VI of the Older Americans Act of 2000.

According to: www.cnn.com, the people born between 1946-1964, known as the baby boomers, made up about 25 percent of the total U.S. population in 2011. As the baby boomer generation ages, the younger generations will be responsible for the care of their elders.

James believes that there will always be Native caregivers.

"… I think in Indian Country; that's historically how Indian people have taken care of their elders. So I think culturally it will continue in Indian Country," James said.

FCSP is offering a caregiver conference March 7 at Okmulgee First Baptist Church in Okmulgee from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. To pre-register for the conference call: 918-682-7891.

For more information on the MCN Family Caregiver Support Program call: 918-756-4333.



MNBE hopes to win bids for future business

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise has been out and about and putting its department on the map.

The Technology Services Division of MNBE has been placing bids all over the state.

MNBE has also been awarded projects awarded not only in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation jurisdiction but all over Oklahoma and out of state. More projects require more workers. MNBE is looking to hire more Muscogee (Creek) citizens.

"What is better than Muscogee (Creek) citizens working on Muscogee (Creek) projects," Division Manager B.J. Waggnor said.

MNBE offers more job opportunities for Muscogee (Creek) citizens.

"The MNBE offers another chance to get more people in the workforce," Second Chief Roger Barnett said. "This is another avenue to pursue and to be able to apply for employment."

MNBE feels that the bids they are awarded helps keep the money within the MCN, putting more Muscogee (Creek) citizens to work.

"This helps keep the money inside the Nation," Barnett said. "We are able to do more and help citizens."

MNBE CEO Woody Anderson feels that becoming certified with the Tribal Employment Rights Office has helped drastically for bids with MCN and with other tribes.

"We are not only TERO certified with MCN but also with Cherokee, Osage and Comanche tribes too," Anderson said. "The TERO program has utilized Indian-owned and tribal-owned businesses."

Anderson believes MNBE will have more job fairs and will be hiring more people when it comes time to start the new projects.

"With more and more projects, we have to have more and more people," Anderson said.

For more information on MNBE, contact: 918-752-3150 or go to: www.mnbe.com.

Muscogee (Creek) director accepts federal position in D.C.



Mvskoke Media/Tyler Roberds

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Community Research and Development Director Sarai Geary is pursuing a new career with the U.S. Department of Energy.

Geary exceeds personal goals

Jessica McBride/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. —Muscogee (Creek) Nation Community Research and Development Director Sarai Geary is leaving her position with MCN; but will continue to be involved in Native issues.

Geary, who is a Muscogee (Creek) citizen; has accepted a position as a program manager for the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs in Washington, D.C.

In her new role, Geary will prepare and administer energy education programs and technical assistance for tribes throughout the nation.

"I think it's an awesome opportunity and I'm going to learn a lot," Geary said.

Growing up in Oregon, Geary went to the University of Portland where she obtained her bachelor's degree in organizational communications.

While interviewing for a scholarship, Geary said that she felt she needed more knowledge about her tribe; so she planned a trip to visit MCN where she met and connected with relatives while she was in the area.

"We developed a family relationship and that's how I decided to go to Kansas City for law school," Geary said.

Geary received her law degree from the University of Missouri in Kansas City, Mo.

After she completed law school, Geary took a leap of faith and moved to Oklahoma so that she could find a job working for MCN. She found a part time job working as a recreation aide for the MCN Tourism and Recreation Department.

"Ever since I was an undergrad; I wanted to work for the tribe," Geary said.

Geary took a step up the career ladder when she received the position as director for CR&D.

Geary said that she exceeded the goals she set for herself while working for MCN.

"Just this is more than what I was aspiring to. I just keep trying to grow," Geary said.

While Oklahoma has become her home, Geary hopes that her progress will help others.

"My whole thing is to kind of make this world a better place… specifically my tribe and Native people," Geary said.

Geary is a member of the Wind Clan and Thlopthlocco Tribal Town.

NASA activities impact participants' family



Courtesy Muskogee Phoenix

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Spring Chalakee (left) was crowned Jr. Miss Native American Student Advocacy Princess at Muskogee Public Schools. Muscogee (Creek) citizen Bailee Allen (right) was named Miss NASA.

Citizen named Jr. Miss NASA

Kyla McKown/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Before joining the Native American Student Advocacy program at Muskogee Public Schools, Muscogee (Creek) citizen Spring Chalakee and her family had little traditional background.

Spring, who is also Eastern Band Cherokee and Quapaw, joined NASA three years ago after telling her parents how much she wanted to join the program at her school.

Her mother, Marta Starr, said Spring who is one of eight children, got the family more involved in the Native American culture.

"I was pretty much raised white," Starr said. "So I'm just glad she is starting to learn to do this and getting involved. I don't think she'd have anything to do with this if it wasn't for the NASA program."

Starr said right now, her family enjoys learning to stompdance by attending the Glenpool Indian Community Center on Wednesdays.

"I'm trying to learn right along with them," Starr said. "I'm going to get some cans and get out there and start dancing too."

Spring was also crowned Jr. Miss NASA for 2014 at Muskogee Public Schools.

At the pageant, Spring spoke in the Mvskoke, Cherokee and Quapaw languages as part of her introduction.

She also presented her jingle dress that Starr had made for her and explained that although she is wearing 75 to 100 jingles now, when she is older it could be as many as 300 to 400, which she said is a lot of jingles.

"Her jingles are made out of snuff cans. The jingle dress was made as a medicine dress. When you dance it makes a clanging sound kind of musical.

"She used to dance cloth and she said she dreamed of being a jingle dress dancer. This is her third year jingle dress dancing," Starr said.

Since Spring won the title, she has been attending other powwows and joins in the grand entry with the other princesses.

Her father, Robert Chalakee Jr., said she loves eating traditional foods along with traditional attire and stompdances.

"She really loves to eat frybread," Robert said. "She really likes beans; likes to eat beans a lot. I tell her, 'you must have an old Indian spirit in you.' "



$2,500 donated to Higher Education Scholarship Foundation Program



MNN/Chelsie Rich

Secretary of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Commerce Bill Fife (center) and MCN Principal Chief George Tiger (right) accepted a $2500 donation Feb. 26 from Jeffrey McCoy (left), Enbridge Energy Training Coordinator for the MCN Higher Education Scholarship Foundation Program at the MCN Education and Training Building in Okmulgee.

Muscogee (Creek) citizen gives back to MCN

Chelsie Rich/*Project Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Enbridge Energy Company Inc. Training Coordinator, Jeffrey McCoy presented a $2,500 donation Feb. 26 to Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger and MCN Secretary of Department of Commerce, Bill Fife for the MCN Higher Education Scholarship Foundation Program in support of the Bill S. Fife Scholarship at the MCN Education and Training Building in Okmulgee.

Enbridge Energy is North America's largest crude oil storage and transportation company.

The headquarters is based in Calgary, Alberta, Canada but the U.S. Enbridge branch also has ownership in natural gas pipelines as well as solar and wind energy.

"We believe in fostering good communities and good relations with our communities in the areas we do business. This is one way we can reach out and support our communities," said McCoy.

McCoy, A Muscogee (Creek) citizen originally from Wetumka, Okla., attended Oklahoma State University and earned a degree in environmental sciences.

He is currently the regional training coordinator for the Enbridge Energy branch in Cushing, Okla.

The donation to help MCN students in higher education was possible through McCoy's effort and support from Enbridge Energy.

"The future of our tribal citizens is reliant upon funding for college cost… I wanted to give back to the Creek tribe in some form and this is one way I can give back," said McCoy.

The donation was made to the MCN Higher Education Scholarship Foundation Program but will go to the recipients of the Bill S. Fife Scholarship.

The Bill S. Fife Scholarship started in 2012 with contributions from Fife's family.

"The participation of the tribal employees here at the Muscogee Nation will be a show of strength to these outside companies… They like to see that the organization is supported internally; if there going to support us from the external aspect," said Fife.

The scholarship is to financially assist MCN students who are attending an institution of higher education or a technical or vocational trade school; and who are interested in tribal government.

"I want to thank Jeffrey and Enbridge Energy for their generous contribution and I think this is a wonderful thing that they have shown to the tribe," said Fife.

To learn how to apply for the Bill S. Fife Scholarship and to see a listing of all scholarships visit: www.creeknationfoundation.org.

National Weather Service holds training at MCN



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The sixth annual National Weather Service Storm Spotter Training was held Feb. 21 at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Mound Building in Okmulgee, Okla., to inform attendees about how tornadoes are formed and how to stay safe in the event of such a storm.

First responders, volunteers get refresher course on storm spotting

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — It is getting close to that time of the year, springtime, which means, "tornado season." Since Oklahoma is in the heart of "tornado alley," it is always best to be prepared for and knowledgeable of these types of storms.

The sixth annual National Weather Service Storm Spotter Training was held Feb. 21 at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Mound Building.

Presenters for the event were from the NWS Tulsa office.

Organizations such as the MCN Emergency Management, and other Emergency Managements crews from City of Okmulgee, Okmulgee County and Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology (OSUIT) attended the training.

"We had close to 60 people that attended the training," MCN Emergency Management Supervisor James Nichols said. "It was a little over two hours of a presentation. There was a lot of information that we wanted to give to everyone in attendance."

Topics discussed during the training included: how storms and tornadoes are formed, how and where to be safe while storm spotting, the path tornadoes take and how to recognize wall clouds.

"Whether you are actively chasing a storm or never have chased a storm, this is good information to know," Nichols said. "Everyone has a mobile phone nowadays so if they need to call it in and let relatives know it is good to get the information on who to call also."

Director of Emergency Management for Okmulgee County Tim Creighton explained why this information is needed for the public.

"This is always good to have these refreshers for the public," Creighton said. "With the springtime here on us pretty shortly; it is best to know the signs for severe weather in case you are outside."

For more information about or to report on severe weather call: MCN Emergency Management Team Supervisor James Nichols at: 918-607-4206 or Director of Okmulgee County Emergency Management Tim Creighton at: 918-759-9984.

Embroidery Designs strives for continued expansion



MNN/Darren DeLaune

Embroidery Design employees Valori Harjo (foreground) and Rodney Wesley finish an order.

Embroidery Designs strives for continued expansion

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

JENKS, Okla. — The Tulsa Creek Indian Community (TCIC) new business Embroidery Designs is looking to show off their work here in northeast Oklahoma.

The store, which now operates at the RiverWalk has been in operation for over a year and soon hopes to take product orders from around the country.

"First though, we want to establish ourselves within the local market. In order to get bigger, we have to make everyone around us happy and want to keep coming back to our business," ED General Manager Michele Meza said.

Embroidery Designs offers screen-printing and heat transfers. The company can put designs on different materials such as jackets, hats and T-shirts and they are now able to put designs on mousepads, coffee mugs, banners and buttons as well.

Embroidery Designs does a majority of their business by phone and email, which Meza believes is a plus for the customers.

"A lot of our business is over the internet," Meza said. "Which a lot of our customers like because if they are out of town they do not have to keep making trips to see what the designs look like. We can do the conversation and business arrangements through email."

All work is done in house and Embroidery Designs does not contract out for special orders.

"The quality is in place and the demand is in place," Assistant Manager Amber Lankford said. "We want everyone to know that we are here and we can help your business."

Meza expressed her pride in the company's reputation and explained why they try to uphold a certain image as a business.

"We are a hidden gem," Meza added. "All of our employees here are good at what they do. We want our customers and new customers to have their complete trust in us."

Embroidery Designs are Tribal Employment Rights Office certified.

"We are TERO certified through Creek and Cherokee Nation," Lankford said. "We want to be TERO certified with as many tribes as we can be."

With business increasing from week to week, the small staff of five will have to grow to be able to handle the product orders that are coming in.

"We are always taking applications," Lankford said. "We are getting more businesses that want us to fill the orders. Eventually we will have to have more people to be able to do that."

Embroidery Designs is located at 400 RiverWalk Terrace, Suite 130 in Jenks. To contact Embroidery Designs by phone, call: 918-518-6408.



MNN/Darren DeLaune

Embroidery Design employee Melissa McCoy works on a design for the Margaritaville themed expansion to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation River Spirit Casino.

Chief Tiger does Q&A with Smithsonian NMAI



MNN/Sterling Cosper

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger speaks during the opening ceremony of the Mvskoke Etvlwv (Muscogee (Creek) People) Event Nov. 15-17, 2012 at the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C.

Meet Native America: George Tiger, Principal Chief of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation

NMAI submission

In the interview series Meet Native America, the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian invites tribal leaders, cultural figures, and other interesting and accomplished Native individuals to introduce themselves and say a little about their lives and work. Together, their responses illustrate the diversity of the indigenous communities of the Western Hemisphere, as well as their shared concerns, and offer insights beyond what's in the news to the ideas and experiences of Native people today. —Dennis Zotigh, NMAI

WASHINGTON — **Please introduce yourself with your name and title.**

George Tiger, Principal Chief of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

Can you give us your Native name, its English translation and/or nickname?

Mekko (pronounced meekoe), which means chief, king, or leader.

Where is your nation located?

Okmulgee, Oklahoma, is the capital and headquarters.

Where are the Muscogee (Creek) people originally from?

Alabama and Georgia.

What responsibilities do you have as Principal Chief?

Basically the same duties as the President of the United States

How did your life experience prepare you to lead your tribe?

When you know people (in my case, my family) who have been part of tribal government; that naturally gives you an idea or an interest. I've been around the Muscogee (Creek) Nation since 1975, that's more than 39 years, as an employee, elected official, speaker of the house, and now chief. As well as observing government, I have also had a lot of guidance—from my father, Chief Cox, Chief Fife, and Chief Beaver. I felt like this was something I wanted to attempt to do and was blessed enough to be elected.

Who inspired you as a mentor?

One would be my father, who was a resolution writer for the National Council in the mid 1950s to the early '60s. Also my grandfather, Chief Motey Tiger (who served from 1907 to 1917), was an inspiration.

Are you a descendant of a historical leader? If so, who?

In addition to my grandfather, there is my cousin, Chief Roley Canard. They both served as Principal Chiefs for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

What is a significant point in history from your tribe that you would like to share?

A significant point in Muscogee Nation history that deeply affected our culture was the Indian Removal Act of 1830. This act enforced by President Andrew Jackson; forcefully removed the "Five Civilized Tribes" from the southeastern United States.

For the Muscogee people, this meant leaving our ancestral homelands in Georgia and Alabama, relocating in Indian Territory, which is now present-day Oklahoma. Our ancestors endured the decade-long forced removal through all seasons of winter weather and summer heat with a significant loss of life along the Trail of Tears. To this day our oral histories and tribal songs continue to recount the harsh weather and loss of life at the hands of the U.S. Government. We remain proud today and our culture endures as Muscogee people.

How is your national government set up?

We have a tripartite government—executive, legislative, and judicial—similar to the federal system.

Is there a functional, traditional entity of leadership in addition to your modern government system?

Yes, we have traditional Mekkos, ceremonial grounds and tribal towns. A tribal town is a traditional township within the Muscogee (Creek) confederacy. There are three remaining tribal towns from what were originally, forty-four: Kialegee, Thlopthlocco and Alabama–Quassarte.

How often are elected leaders chosen?

For the principal chief and second chief, it's every four years. The legislature, or National Council, is elected every two years.

How often does the National Council meet?

There is a monthly meeting, and at times there may be extraordinary sessions called.

Approximately how many members are in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation?

More than 77,000

What are the criteria to become a member of your nation?

As long as you can prove lineage to the Dawes Rolls, you can be a member of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

Is your language still spoken on your homelands? If so, what percentage of your people would you estimate are fluent speakers?

Yes, the Mvskoke language is still spoken. We have approximately ten percent of our people who are fluent speakers.

What economic enterprises does the nation own?

We own hospitals, a physical rehabilitation center, travel plazas, casinos, a retail shopping mall and a country club.

What annual events does your community sponsor?

We have the annual Mvskoke Nation Festival; the Mvskoke Hall of Fame (where we recognize notable tribal citizens), the Challenge Bowl (to promote learning about our culture, society, history, government, and language using traditional values as the foundation), the Native Made Art Festival/Indian Fall Festival in early November this year and the Council Oak Ceremony (to remember our history and the peole who came before us). We are also a major sponsor for some of the state's college and professional sporting teams.

What attractions are available for visitors on your land?

We are very proud of our historic Creek Council House; the state's oldest country club, the Okmvlke Country Club and Golf Course; Council Oak; the Mound Building, which houses the National Council and District Court, and the Veterans Affairs Building; River Spirit Casino; Fountain Head Golf Course; the College of the Muscogee Nation; and Honey Springs Battlefield in Checotah.

How does the Muscogee (Creek) Nation deal with the United States as a sovereign nation?

We recognize each other as sovereign nations and handle relationships in that matter.

What message would you like to share with the youth of your nation?

The number one thing is getting an education. That would allow us to always have a pool of leaders for our future. Not only do we need leaders in our tribe but also leaders of the various entities we have under the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

Is there anything else you would like to add?

In the two years I've been in office, my administration has been aggressive in terms of business and economic development. I'm proud to say that work is being noticed by the state as well as by other tribal nations.

Thank you.

Tribal sovereignty discussed during legal symposium



MNN/Gary Fife

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger was the keynote speaker Feb. 27 for the University of Oklahoma College of Law: 'American Indian Law Review' at the OU campus in Norman, Okla.

Tiger touts economic leverage; Miskito chief highlights social, political challenges

Gary Fife/*Radio Specialist*

NORMAN, Okla. — The exercise of sovereignty for Native Americans and other Native peoples of this hemisphere may best be accomplished through commerce-with one another and the rest of the world.

Those were the thoughts of various speakers who shared information at the American Indian Law Review: 'Tribal Sovereignty-A Global Perspective' symposium hosted by the University of Oklahoma Native American Studies Department.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger delivered the keynote address. He listed the economic progress the MCN has made by utilizing the Nation's sovereign status. Much of that, he said, came from the MCN becoming involved in gaming.

He noted, the MCN gaming started with high stakes bingo and now includes sophisticated and elaborate casinos.

"Now, because of gaming; we're big players, if you will, here in Oklahoma. Because gaming has allowed us to not necessarily even the playing field; but it's allowed us to do a lot of things," Tiger said.

Tiger felt that course had led to more local and state authorities paying attention to the tribal governments.

"Collectively, as tribes here in Oklahoma; we're making sure that the state legislature and Gov. Fallin's office; anyone having to do anything with the state knows we're very important to what's going on here in the state of Oklahoma," he said.

He cited statistics showing that tribes and the MCN were among the largest employers and economic contributors in the state, and attributed this fact to the tribe's inherent sovereignty.

"For a long time, the City of Tulsa, and the County of Tulsa didn't want to have anything to do with us," Tiger said. "Some of you remember; when we got into high stakes bingo they shut us down. They said we were a public nuisance. Low and behold, today; they got us listed on tourism stops in the city of Tulsa."

On the international level, Tiger thought the economic leverage rather than the political status would be the most beneficial for tribal governments.

"I think we're ready to reach out there, if you will, on a global setting," Tiger said. "We already have to see degree through MNBE (Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise) and what they're doing in Afghanistan and Mexico with the contracts they're getting. But we want to step it up, if you will, to be able to work with other foreign countries. "

He elaborated on the potential for further international business relationships.

"I've been approached on a number of occasions by people from China and other different places that want to look at possible investment opportunities with our Nation," Tiger said. "Looking at a global perspective and maybe job opportunities that may be brought to Creek Nation; not away from our soil, but on our soil."

The OU Native American Studies Department also sponsored the: 'Tribal Sovereignty: A Global Perspective' Symposium during the event. Interim Department Director, Dr. Gus Palmer Jr. said this discussion of the global perspective was important as tribes determine more of their own futures.

"I think through self-determination, Indian tribes are taking advantage of other entities: governmental entities, business and economic development entities; so that they can strengthen their own tribal governments and communities," Palmer said.

Armstrong Wiggins, a Miskito Indian from Nicaragua, was one of the resource people who contributed to the symposium.

He has been actively promoting Miskito rights and recognition in that country and the United Nations since the 1970s. Wiggins is one of the authors of the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Currently, he is a Director of the American Indian Law Resource Center in Washington, D.C.

Wiggins said it was important for American tribal governments and those in other parts of the hemisphere to remind the world that they have survived colonial rule and are still pressing for their rights and self-determination.

"But, we have our own government and how we can strengthen that by using this political declaration that we have challenged; especially in the U.S. government. Challenge all the U.S. agencies that need to change their policies; especially the Bureau of Indian Affairs," Wiggins said.

He called for more education between Native peoples and for them to travel to see those cultures and how they live first-hand.

When told of the MCN's recent cultural exchange program to Managua, Nicaragua, Wiggins said that such a trip was a beginning; but those delegations still need to get beyond the capitol city.

"I think if they go and don't go and meet our people, and they only go to Managua; then it doesn't help them. Because they need to go to our territories, which is kind of isolated, but you can get there if you coordinate with our leaders."

MCN Community and Tribal Events

MCN Southern Regional Office March schedule

MCN SRO/*Media Release*

WETUMKA, Okla. — The following is the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Southern Regional Office schedule forthe remainder of March.

March 17 - Summer Youth
9 a.m.-5 p.m.

March 18 - Tax Commission
Closed

March 25 - Tax Commission
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Lunch 11-11: 30 a.m.

March 28 - Women Infants and Children clinic
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

For more information contact the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Southern Regional Office at: 405-452-1100.

SRO Employment and Training at: 405-452-1106

SRO Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (appointment only) at: 1-800-483-1979

SRO WIC (2nd and 4th Fridays) at: 1-800-684-2302.

MCN Behaviorial Health selected for Certified Healthy Oklahoma award

MCN DOH/*Media Release*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — MCN Behavioral Health selected for Certified Healthy Oklahoma award program

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH), the Oklahoma Academy, the State Chamber of Oklahoma, and the Oklahoma Turning Point Council recently announced the annual award winners for the state Certified Healthy Oklahoma programs. This year, 1346 applications were submitted from groups throughout the state, and 1146 award winners received the "Certified Healthy" status.

Among these winners was the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health Behavioral Health Youth Wellness Program.

The five award programs are: Certified Healthy Businesses, Certified Healthy Restaurants, Certified Healthy Schools, Certified Healthy Campuses, and Certified Healthy Communities. There are three award levels for the Certified Healthy Oklahoma programs: Basic, Merit and Excellence.

For a list of award winners statewide, visit the OSDH website at www.health.ok.gov.

Interested organizations can prepare now to become certified next year. Online applications will be available on Aug. 1, 2014. Criteria for certification can be found on the Oklahoma Turning Point Council website at www.okturningpoint.org.

For more information, contact Jennifer Avery or Bobby Howard at Okmulgee County Health Department.

Revival set for March 15

HOLDENVILLE, Okla. — A revival is set for 7 p.m., March 15 at Duck Creek #2 Church in Holdenville, Okla., three miles west of old highway 270.

The event will feature George Harjoche and Rev. Richard Pickup.

For more information call George Franks at: 405-712-0042. For questions about the event call Abby at: 405-712-0933.

Wild Onion dinner set for March 15

TULSA, Okla. — A wild onion dinner is set for March 15 from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Tulsa Indian United Methodist Church, 1901 North College.

The price is $8 per plate, dine in or take out, and includes wild onions and eggs, pinto beans, fry bread, hominy, salt pork or ham, dessert and coffee, tea or water. Grape dumplings are $2 and sodas are 50 cents.

For more information call: 918-834-1956.

Wild Onion dinner set for March 15

COWETA, Okla. — A wild onion dinner is set for March 15 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Davis Chapel United Methodist Church.

The price is $7 per plate and includes a dessert and drink. For more information contact Paul Tecumseh at: 918-270-0231.

Wild Onion Dinner Set for March 15

TULSA, Okla. — A wild onion dinner is set for March 15 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Haikey Chapel United Methodist Church.

The price is $8 for adults and $5 for children.

MCN Citizenship to issue cards at OCMA March 18

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Citizenship Board will be at the Oklahoma City Muscogee (Creek) Association office, 4111 N. Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City, OK., March 18 from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. to update citizenship cards and for new enrollments.

If needed, bring any supporting documents such as name changes new enrollment etc.

For more information contact the OCMA office on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at: 405-605-2621.

Revival Set for March 19-22

OKEMAH, Okla. — A revival is set for March 19-22 at Greenleaf Baptist Church in Okemah.

Services will begin at 7 p.m. nightly with Ed Beaver as the featured speaker.

Revival set for March 20-22

SAND SPRINGS, Okla. — A revival is set for 7 p.m. nightly, March 20-22 at Wekiwa Indian Baptist Church in Sand Springs, Okla.

Thursday will feature Rev. Paul Fixico, Friday: Rev. Grover Wind and Saturday Rev. David Louis.

For more information call Shannon Neil at: 918-693-4551.

Seeking Native American art

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Local citizen looking to purchase wholesale authentic Native made goods.

Those interested should contact Donna at: 918-361-0749.

GIC Blues Jam set for March 20 and 27

GLENPOOL, Okla. — The Glenpool Indian Community is hosting a blues jam session and workshop starting in March on Thursdays at 7 p.m.

The first two sessions are set for March 20 and 27 at the GIC community center in the small building, east off of U.S. Highway 75 in north Glenpool.

For more information contact Selby Minner at: 918-855-0978.

MFSI to host blue bread and grape dumplings class March 22

MFSI/*Media Release*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Two "how to" traditional food cooking classes will be held Saturday, March 22 at the Mvskoke Food Sovereignty Initiative offices, 100 East 7th Street, Suite 101, Okmulgee, OK 74447. The blue bread class will be from 10-11 a.m. and the grape dumplings class will be from 11 a.m.-12 p.m.

The goal of the class is to promote traditional Mvskoke foods and cooking. The classes will focus on traditional steps to prepare and make Cvtvhakv (blue bread) and Pyrko Afke (grape dumplings).

Dicey Barnett, MFSI staff member, will present the class on Cvtvhakv (blue bread). Barnett has been preparing traditional foods her whole life and is eager to share with those who are interested in learning how to make Cvtvhakv.

Mary Watashe, will be the presenter for the class on Pvrko Afke (grape dumplings). Watashe, an enrolled member of the Euchee Tribe of Oklahoma, brings her knowledge and experience of traditional food ways. A question and answer session will be offered at the end of the classes.

To RSVP or for more information, contact Dicey Barnett at: 918-756-5915, or June Marshall at 918-756-2701. Everyone is invited to attend the training.

Benefit stompdance set for March 22

OKEMAH, Okla. — A spring benefit stompdance is set for March 22 at the Okemah Fairgrounds with a food sale beginning at 6 p.m. and the dance at 7 p.m.

The MC will be Felix Brown Jr. and donations are appreciated.

For more information call Richard Beaver at: 918-955-1123 or Betty Harjo at: 918282-1262.

Annual Wild Onion Dinner Set for March 22

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Concharty United Methodist Church Annual Wild Onion Dinner is set for March 22 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at 19040 Garfield Rd., Okmulgee, OK.

The price is $10 for adults including to go plates and children 10 and under cost $6.

Wild Onion Dinner set for March 29

BROKEN ARROW, Okla. — A wild onion dinner is set for March 29 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Broken Arrow Indian United Methodist Church, 20854 E. 141 St., Broken Arrow, OK.

Dinners are $10 and include onions, beans, corn, meat, frybread, beverages and desserts.

MCN 4-H D.C. trip registration deadline set for April 1

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation 4-H Program is sponsoring a trip Jun. 21-28 to Washington, D.C., for program members 13-years-old and over.

MCN 4-H Program participants are eligible for this trip at no cost. Deadline for registration is April 1.

For more information or to sign up for the 4-H Program contact MCN 4-H Program Project Manager Billy Haltom at: 918-732-7628.

MCN Behavioral Health to host Youth Summit April 3

TULSA, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Behavioral Health Program invites you to the Third Annual Native Heroes of Hope Youth Summit April 3 at the Tulsa Air and Space Museum.

The event is available for 7th-10th graders and limited to 150 youth plus chaperones. Registration will be coming soon.

For more information, contact Lindsley Harry or Natalie Barnett at the Sapulpa Behavioral Health Office 918-224-9307.

MCN National Day of Prayer set for April 5

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Day of Prayer and Fasting has been set for April 5 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the MCN Mound Building. Everyone is invited.

Native Art Market set for April 5

CHECOTAH, Okla. — The first annual Checotah Native Art Market is set for April 5 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Heartland Heritage Center Museum and Gallery, 116 N. Broadway, Checotah, OK 74426.

Both spaces are $10. All items must be made by the applicant and there will be no refunds for no shows. The deadline to apply is April 3.

For more information contact Frankie Blagg at: 918-916-9015 or Jon Tiger at: 918-850-3806.

Jim Thorpe Games set for June 8-14

SHAWNEE, Okla. — The third annual Jim Thorpe Native American games are set for June 8-14 at different venues throughout Shawnee.

Athletes representing over 70 Indian nations, bands and tribes from across the U.S. will gather to share their talents in the spirit of the "World's Greatest Athlete" and Native American Legend, Jim Thorpe.

Over 1,500 Native American athletes are expected to participate in 10 different sports throughout the week that will include basketball, softball, tennis, wrestling, track and field, cross country, golf, martial arts, beach volleyball, and stickball and lacrosse exhibitions.

For more information about the games call: 405-208-9253 or info@jimthorpegames.com or visit their website at: www.jimthorpegames.com.

Free training, visual aids available for Native Americans with impaired vision

MCN DOH/*Media Release*

TAHLEQUAH, Okla. — Tahlequah, Okla. – Free workshops offering meaningful life skills and visual aid training to Native Americans with impaired vision are scheduled for March in Okmulgee, Okla. The Muscogee (Creek) Nation will host the workshop at the MCN Elderly Nutrition Center. The workshop series includes three consecutive Saturdays, March 22, 29 and April 5 (each from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.). To be eligible, participants must be a citizen of a federally recognized tribe, over 18-years-old and have had visited an eye doctor within the last year and received a low vision diagnosis.

"I am now reading things that I haven't read in years!" exclaimed Project NATIVE participant Betty Boney.

The program demonstrates a variety of magnification devices and special lighting that can help some low vision people to see enough to read or sew.

The workshops introduce participants to current low and high tech equipment to help those with impaired vision see and read. The workshops are free and lunch will be provided. After attending all three days of workshops, Project NATIVE works with participants to select equipment to meet their needs and purchases this equipment at no cost to the participant (order limit is based on budget available).

The five workshop components cover information such as: how to navigate safely in unfamiliar surroundings; how to stand up for yourself; cooking safely; keeping active through recreation; and demonstrations of devices such as TV glasses and sunglasses, lighted magnifiers and electronic readers.

"This is another great opportunity for our patients within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation to benefit by us uniting healthcare resources," Secretary of the MCN Department of Health Lt. Cmdr. Seneca Smith said.

"People, especially older people, in the United States are losing eyesight at the rate of one person every seven minutes [according to Research to Prevent Blindness]," Project NATIVE Director Lillian Young, Ed.D. said. "Native Americans are particularly impacted since there is a high correlation between the incidence of diabetes and loss of eyesight.

"This program is a great start at providing direct services to those with impaired vision, helping them get started with technology and equipment geared specifically for them. We also want to create awareness and sensitivity among family members, service agencies, businesses and the general public about the common issues people with low vision face every day."

The information and low vision devices presented in the workshops help participants remain productive and independent, which is a central goal of Project NATIVE.

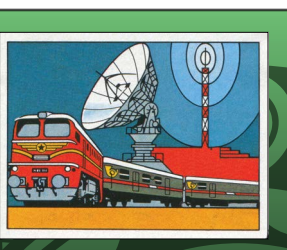
If you know of someone who is visually impaired and may be interested in Project NATIVE, please ask them to call: 918-456-5581.

Applications for the Okmulgee workshop are available at the MCN Senior Nutrition Center and by calling Project NATIVE.

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Muscogee Nation News

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April 1, 2014
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"Tasahce Rakko"
Big Spring

MCN hosts 12th annual Spring Celebration

Students burn off Spring Break energy in Henryetta

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

HENRYETTA, Okla. — What activities were there for students during the 2014 spring break?

One activity was the 12th annual Muscogee (Creek) Nation Spring Celebration held March 18 at Henryetta High School.

Event coordinators, the MCN Tribal Child Youth Coalition wanted to further the spirit of the annual function's ongoing theme, "Celebrate Youth."

Numerous activities and information were in store for the children as they started showing up in the morning, including: inflatable toys, face painting, dance contests and educational displays.

"This is an opportunity for families to get together," MCN Department of Employment and Training Youth Coordinator Nancy Mason said. "We wanted to give both parents and children something to do during their spring break."



MNN/Amanda Rutland

Motivational speaker Kirk Smalley spoke about bullying to older youth who attended the 12th annual Muscogee (Creek) Nation Spring Celebration held March 18 at Henryetta High School.

Different organizations throughout the MCN showed up to hand out goodies, educational pamphlets and other gifts and prizes for both the children and parents.

"We have had a great turnout from our different organizations coming here to hand out information related to the program to the parents," Mason said. "We feel it is very important that these families know what resources are close to them."

College students from the Community Care College were on hand to give out free haircuts for the children and a bonus; a massage for the adults.

Motivational speaker Kirk Smalley spoke to the older youth about bullying.

"It was very powerful," Mason said. "Such a good presentation. He really interacted well with the students and the audience."

Dr. Wayne Johnson, Secretary of the MCN Department of Education and Training was pleased with the turnout for the Spring Celebration.

"It is a great day," Johnson said.

Spring - 2

MCN maneuvers again to develop revenue outside gaming

Officials discuss MNBE, OneFire and their investments

Jessica McBride/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Gaming revenue is not the only source of income for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. MCN has branched out to other forms of economic development with the creation of the Muscogee Nation Business Enterprises and OneFire Holding Company LLC.



Mvskoke Media/Tyler Roberds **MNN**/Sterling Cosper

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation has branched out to other forms of economic development beyond gaming with the creation of the Muscogee Nation Business Enterprises and OneFire Holding Company LLC. (Left) OneFire Holding Company LLC CEO Gary Warnock (right) MNBE CEO Woody Anderson

Why pursue economic development?

According to MCN Second Chief Roger Barnett, by expanding the business sector of MCN, more dollars flow into the Nation to provide additional services and opportunities for citizens.

"We are continually seeking avenues to expand in any way, shape or form that we can; whether it is through health systems; whether it's housing or just the blue collar jobs that we always need," Barnett said.

MCN officials hope that diversifying the Nation's assets will help procure financial security for the services provided to tribal citizens in the future.

"With great opportunities comes growth and prosperity," Barnett said. "When we are able to take care of our own; then I feel like we're doing our job."

Barnett elaborated that the Nation would only maintain a status quo if the MCN did not seek out avenues of income. He said that pursuit of business development will continue in the future.

"With the technology, with the, just, opportunity, I think in the next couple of years you'll see a new type of energy with the Nation. I think you'll see a new facelift…" Barnett said.

What does MNBE do?

The 2013 MCN Strategic Plan outlined a goal for MNBE to expand as a contractor and supplier in national and global markets.

MNBE works heavily in logistics, training and support

Development - 4

MCN Supreme Court vacates 2010 contempt cases

Attorney general discusses details of old case, new ruling

Media Release

OKMULGEE, Okla. – The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Supreme Court vacated a nearly four-year-old MCN District Court decision on Feb. 14 that charged three MCN National Council representatives and two attorneys with contempt of court for not passing the fiscal year 2010 comprehensive budget.

The National Council representatives charged and fined $2,500 in 2010 were Bill Fife, Samuel Alexander and Roger Barnett.

"This happened during a very contentious time in our nation's government," MCN Attorney General Roger Wiley said. "The chief's office was sending a budget to the national council and the national council was trying to engage in the process that it had always engaged in and that was questioning, delving into the budget and why these amounts were asked for… that's their constitutional right to ask those types of questions, and it's healthy for good government."

Former Principal Chief A.D. Ellis filed a contempt citation against the three representatives and two attorneys for not passing the budget, but the National Council dug in its heels and refused to pass the budget unless the administration sent over managers and directors to answer the council's questions about departmental budgets, Wiley said.

After the five were charged and the council refused to pass the budget, the MCN District Court wound up passing the budget itself.

Case - 2

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To submit a change of address or a letter to the editor, call 918 - 732 - 7720 or send e-mail to: wmurphy@mcn-nsn.gov.

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Members of the Native American Journalists Association

Mvskoke Loan Fund awards first loan



MNN/Chelsie Rich

Mvskoke Loan Fund Board of Directors and staff, (top l to r) Bill Fife, Muscogee (Creek) Nation Secretary of Commerce; Thunder Whitecloud, Office Manager; John Blue, Business Development Specialist; Jerry Wilson, MCN Tribal Administrator (bottom left) Al Wilson, member (bottom right) Lahoma Simmons, Director of Small Business Finance/Community Development Financial Institution Mvskoke Loan Fund; with the first awardee of the loan program; Tom Barnett (bottom center) owner of Semehobya Patchwork, Feb. 24 at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Executive Building in Okmulgee.

Citizen turns hobby into business

Chelsie Rich/*Project Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The new Muscogee (Creek) Nation loan program awarded the first loan of the program to Tom Barnett, owner of Semehobya Patchwork, Feb. 24 at the MCN Executive Building in Okmulgee.

The program known as the Mvskoke Loan Fund operates through the MCN Community Development Financial Institution; and was created to help Native American entrepreneurs start or further develop their business.

A CDFI provides credit along with financial services to understand markets and populations.

"Tribal CDFI's are special groups within the CDFI that allows tribal entities to form their own funds to support economic development opportunities for their tribal citizens," Lahoma Simmons, Director of Small Business Finance/CDFI Mvskoke Loan Fund said.

Although the program gives preference to Muscogee (Creek) citizens, any Native American living within the MCN jurisdiction may apply for the loan.

The loan fund also offers post loan development services such as helping recipients develop bookkeeping and inventory systems; something that most lenders do not provide.

"Our main goal is to create jobs… and eliminate any barriers to success that our clients may have," said Simmons.

The loan repayment process is flexible and is structured according to the needs of clients.

Loan payments may be structured monthly or quarterly, or in some cases, annually for agricultural loans.

What started off as a hobby for Barnett six years ago in his home; has led him to operating a shop in Sapulpa, Okla.

Barnett is a Seminole/Creek textile artist who specializes in traditional attire.

"I got recognized for doing a lot of quality work; and so my business just has grown every year and it has gotten to the point that I have to hire people," said Barnett.

This growth led Barnett to apply for the Mvskoke Loan Fund.

"I'm just happy I got accepted," said Barnett.

The Semehobya Patchwork shop is located at 602 E. Bryan Ave., Sapulpa, OK.

For more information call Tom Barnett at: 918-804-1050.

For more information about the Mvskoke Loan Fund contact Lahoma Simmons at: 918-549-2606.

Cultural Preservation hosts second Symposium



MNN/Amanda Rutland

Texas A&M Associate Professor of History, Angela Hudson speaks on the topic of travel March 7 at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Mound building during the Muskogean Symposium.

Event describes Pre-Removal Period of Mvskoke history

Amanda Rutland/*Media Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Cultural Preservation Department held the second Muskogean Symposium March 5-7 at various locations throughout Okmulgee.

This symposium focused on the end of the Mississippian Period to the Removal Period. Presenters covered topics including: relations with Europeans, trading, views of travel, government, the Creek War and Removal.

As a precursor to the symposium, Director of the Center for the Study of Arts and Symbolism of Ancient America at Texas State University, Dr. F. Kent Reilly III taught a one-day iconography workshop March 5 at the Okmulgee Indian Community Center.

This workshop took an in depth look at iconography of the Mississippian Period.

He educated participants on the method of reading the symbols in the first half of the workshop and concluded by having the participants apply this knowledge.

"The broad scope that I taught today was the function of symbols to convey information about belief and ritual," Reilly said, "There is no way you can learn everything there is to know about it in one day; but I can give you some general ideas plus the method."

Reilly was a speaker at the first Muskogean Symposium in October 2013.

Research Associate Professor Dr. Adam King was the opening speaker for last year's symposium. King gave a brief recap of the previous symposium and then spoke about his current work in Etowah, Ga.

Associate Professor of History, Angela Hudson incorporated the legends Muscogee (Creek) people tell about travel into her lecture, which provided a different perspective on Removal.

"There are a series of stories that were interesting to me that concern the tie snake or the horned serpent that maybe familiar to some of you," Hudson said. "Each of these stories, they sort of vary in the details; but they suggest the importance of travel; but also maybe the potential peril of travel."

Hudson explained that most Muscogee (Creek) roads of the time were only 18-24 inches wide and followed the contour of the land; especially when it came to crossing bodies of water. The territory of land MCN occupied during Pre-Removal had many rivers and creeks.

Assistant Professor of History Chris Haveman spoke about MCN government and the Nation's treaties with the U.S. government.

According to Havemen, Alabama and other surrounding states passed laws that prevented Muscogee (Creek) people from defending themselves or their property in court.

"These extension laws, more than just about anything; drove the headmen to distraction. It eroded their power considerably," Haveman said. "It was like an invitation for whites to come into the Creek Nation."

Attendees gave positive feedback on the event. MCN National Council Rep. Frank Coachman attended the two days of the symposium held in the MCN Mound Building.

"It's in depth history, and like Chief said; you have to know where you come from to know where you're going. It's eye opening," Coachman said.

Cultural Preservation plans to continue hosting symposiums and the next one is planned for this fall. A potential future topic may be the Post Removal Period.

Case

Continued from Page 1

"That was the first time in the history of the Muscogee Nation and any government that I'm aware of, any democratic form of government where a court has said this is our budget," Wiley said.

The five whom were charged then filed an appeal and argued that the court should have not been involved in the budget process.

"That's a breach, that's a violation of the separation of powers. No court should ever pass a budget when that's the legislative body's responsibility," he said.

Once the newly appointed judges came in, they started taking up some of the older cases and deciding them, Wiley said.

"I'm glad they did this one because it needed to be addressed," he said.

The court vacated all five contempt convictions, so those were all set aside, and on March 13, it ordered the MCN Controller, James Pratt, to refund the fines that had been paid by the five since the contempt convictions were vacated.

According to the MCN SC, it stated in its ruling that: "this is a political issue that needs to be resolved between the chief's office and the national council office, that's why we elect them, they need to communicate.'

Wiley said the supreme court did give tribe a lot of direction and did tell them that courts don't need to be involved in political issues.

"The court says, generally the two political branches cooperative success or failure during the nation's annual budget is a matter best left to the nation's electorate to evaluate and correct when necessary," he said.

Wiley said to him, this was always a political issue that should've been resolved by diplomacy and communication rather than lawsuits, judgments, fines and punishments. Those types of actions do not result in good government.

"I'm just happy to see that this government has direction now by communicating, the different branches of gov't communicating together, we can solve a lot of our problems, we don't need lawyers and courts to resolved our issues, we can do it by talking to each other, that's the best thing about this opinion."

Spring

Continued from Page 1

"To see these kids light up when they get to play games; get prizes and get to be involved in other activities shows the reward for everyone's hard work in getting this ready."

Solomon Lee, 10, was the winner of the art contest hosted by TCYC. His design appeared on the shirts that were passed out to the students and parents who showed up that day.

Solomon Lee's father Simeon Lee, Jr. spoke about the Spring Celebration and his son winning the contest.

"This is my first time attending this," Simeon Lee Jr. said. "So getting to come out here and see the kids get to play in all the activities and my son winning the art contest was great. This is a great day for my son."

CMN receives funding from BIE and AICF



MNN/Amanda Rutland
American Indian College Fund Representatives Rachel R. Piontak and Amanda Malachowski speak to College of the Muscogee Nation scholarship recipients Feb. 20 during an awards banquet at CMN in Okmulgee.

Students awarded in-house scholarships from CMN

Amanda Rutland/*Media Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Bureau of Indian Education approved funding Feb. 12 for the College of the Muscogee Nation. As a candidate for accreditation, CMN was eligible to receive funding for operational expenses. The disbursal of funds will begin July 2014.

Not all tribal colleges and universities are eligible for this funding. CMN had to meet two requirements: the college had to be a full member of the American Indian Higher Education Consortium and at least 51 percent of the student body had to be Native American.

At this time, it is unknown how much CMN will be receiving; however, the funding is based on the number of full-time Native American students. CMN President Robert Bible said that the BIE has yet to request the current enrollment count.

"The tribal colleges, they get like I think $5,500-5,700 a student," Bible said, "They haven't requested the numbers yet; but we are thinking it could be anywhere from $800,000 to over $1.2 million."



This money is to be used for operational costs including and pertinent to faculty, utilities and facility maintenance.

Another funding avenue for CMN is the American Indian College Fund, which allowed the college to enable students to apply for in-house scholarships. AICF is a nationwide organization located in Denver that seeks donations and grants on behalf of Native American students.

This is also the first year that CMN was eligible to receive monetary contributions from AICF because of accreditation candidacy. The scholarships were based on financial need and merit.

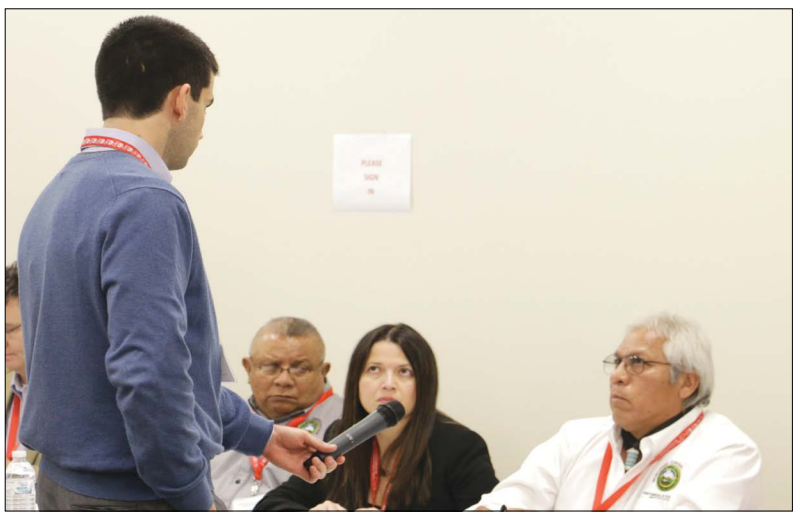
CMN held an awards banquet Feb. 20 to recognize the scholarship recipients and invited AICF to attend.

AICF Scholarship Program Administrator Rachel R. Piontak and AICF Data Entry Specialist Amanda Malachowski gave a short presentation at the banquet. Piontak and Malachowski shared a brief history about AICF and educated students about other scholarship opportunities.

CMN Financial Aid Coordinator Butch Smith said that the college was grateful to have AICF attend the event.

"We are very blessed and we feel very privileged," said Smith, "It was really, really nice of them to spend time and money to come speak at this and get to be a part of it."

MCN Historic Preservation hosts 2014 Tribal Consultation



MNN/Chelsie Rich
Tim Heisler, Environmental Engineer for the Alabama Division Federal Highway Administration, speaks Feb. 26 during the 2014 Tribal Consultation at the MCN Housing Authority Building in Okmulgee.

Department works to preserve cultural resources

Chelsie Rich/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Historic Preservation Department hosted the 2014 Tribal Consultation Feb. 26-27 with the Alabama Division of the Federal Highway Administration and the Alabama Department of Transportation at the MCN Housing Authority Building in Okmulgee.

The discussion centered around the National Historic Preservation Act; specifically Section 106 where federally funded agencies have the responsibility to speak with tribes about projects that may disturb cultural resources on their native homeland.

"We can actually build projects that will have the least impact to resources that may be present on our projects," Mark Bartlett, FHWA Alabama Division Administrator said.

Representatives from the: MCN, Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas, Absentee-Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, Chickasaw and Choctaw Nations of Oklahoma, Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana, Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians and the Thlopthlocco Tribal Town were all among the tribes that attended.

Guests from The University of Alabama, Office of Archaeological Research and McCleary-Richey Reporting Services also attended.

The FHWA works with the Alabama DOT on developing road projects.

They must contact tribes to see if there are any historic properties in the areas where a project may occur.

"As part of Alabama, we actually have a number of tribes that are interested and have history in Alabama," Bartlett said.

FHWA have their own archeologists who survey the land but tribes also have their own information about tribal towns and things such as plants that may have cultural significance, which the state maybe are unaware of.

"Its our goal to protect those resources for future generations," Johnnie Jacobs, MCN Historic Preservation Manager said.

The FHWA and Alabama DOT have been working with tribes for many years but last year was the first face-to-face meeting held in Alabama.

"As removed tribes; we don't get that kind of communication; so over the past 5-10 years, agencies are doing a much better job of working with us and helping us protect those resources," Jacobs said.

The consultation also helped facilitate communication and a relationship, which will help all those involved stay informed about projects and how to work better with each other to help preserve resources.

MCN was able to host the second year of the consultation and this was the first meeting in Oklahoma for FHWA and Alabama DOT.

"We really appreciate the Muscogee (Creeks) hospitality since we've come out," said Bartlett.



DEVELOPMENT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

services. Currently, its business spans nationally from Okmulgee to San Antonio, Texas, and internationally to Mexico and Afghanistan.

Muscogee International LLC operates under the MNBE umbrella. MI offers information technology and security services in global markets. These security services include cyber and physical security.

"I would say about 90 percent of what we do would be government contracts," MI CEO Matt McCutchen said.

MNBE has set a goal to generate additional revenue, employment opportunities and facility upgrades to MCN Travel Plazas and the Okmulke Country Club in the MCN 2014 Strategic Plan. MNBE also will expand its' franchise, Rex's Chicken.

Anderson also said that MNBE will continue to grow with new opportunities that align with the path that MNBE is on.

"We're also reviewing other business opportunities that would fit into what we're doing right now," Anderson said.



MNN File Photos

In the 2014 MCN Strategic Plan, an objective of the RiverWalk Development Plan (left) is to reassign the management of the facility to OneFire. Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise has set a goal to expand its' franchise, Rex's Chicken (right).

What is OneFire Holding Company?

In the 2013 MCN Strategic Plan, an economic goal of MCN was to study different business structures, which culminated into the development of OneFire Holding Company.

"We've never really had per se an outlet for the ability to develop LLCs," Tiger said. "I think it's going to be a wonderful opportunity for the tribe to be more aggressive in getting involved with economic development."

In the creation of OneFire, MCN Tribal Administrator Jerry Wilson said that the system was designed to employ business-minded people and allow business to function outside of the political arena.

"One intent was to create an entity under the authority of the tribal government and to seat it with a business board… capitalize it; and try to separate the political part of the government with the business part," Wilson said.

OneFire Holding Company has three board members; one nominated by the MCN principal chief, one nominated by the MCN National Council and another nominated by the other two board members.

At the Council session Nov. 23, 2013, OneFire Holding Company CEO Gary Warnock stated his case for the funding requested for OneFire.

"This is a living, breathing thing. This is not just a business deal…" Warnock said. "You might want to bring some of your business deals our way; so that we can do that work in an objective and effective way."

NCA 13-292 was passed by the MCN National Council on Nov. 23, 2013, appropriating $7.3 million to OneFire every year for three years. Wilson explained the investment.

"The lifeblood of any business is money. So the Council passed appropriations to capitalize the holding company; so that the company could have life," Wilson said.

Tiger said that asking for a large amount in advance allowed business to continue instead of having to wait for funding.

"It gives us an opportunity to have monies available for any investments needed with OneFire instead of having to go back through the council per se," Tiger said.

According to Warnock, OneFire plans to focus on efficiency and save money by having a central administrative support services team that can provide services such as payroll to each LLC under the OneFire umbrella.

Warnock said that one advantage of the holding company is having a structure where citizens do not necessarily have to worry about the business side of owning their own company.

"Whereas in a company that's tribal-owned that has a support capability; they can just focus on their trade," Warnock said.

In the 2014 MCN Strategic Plan, an objective of the RiverWalk Development Plan is to reassign the management of the facility to OneFire.

OneFire held several job fairs within the MCN jurisdiction in March.

"We wanted to create a situation, especially this week with these job fairs to give our citizens a chance to come out, check it out… and also to meet them, start to build the database, the bullpens if you will for the Creek talent that's available," Warnock said.

The difference between MNBE and OneFire

One main difference is the way the companies are structured.

MNBE was created as an 8(a) company. The U.S. Small Business Administration helps small economically and socially challenged businesses through the 8(a) Business Development Program to compete in the marketplace and get government contracts.

Because MNBE is owned by a racial minority, it qualifies for the program.

Anderson explained that companies graduate from the program after nine years, but that business does not stop after that time.

"The thing about an 8(a) certification is that it's only as good as your company; as good as your marketing and your ability to execute," Anderson said. "It's not the volume of what you do; it's the quality of what you do."

OneFire is a holding company, which is a sort of management vessel for other LLCs. Warnock suggested that with this structure, more companies would be built to take on various types of work.

OneFire has initiated a business opportunity filter that will assist in reviewing business deals objectively. The board will help to evaluate each opportunity by this strategy.

"We want OneFire to be a place where things go to grow," Warnock said. "We're making the business case for how we're going to make it successful."

The business opportunities that each company pursues may be similar or different. Currently, MNBE deals heavily in government contracting. OneFire plans to pursue different forms of economic development, from construction to manufacturing.

A common goal of both entities is to help create jobs for Muscogee (Creek) citizens, and to diversify these opportunities to give citizens a chance to pursue a career that they enjoy.

"When you have a board and when you have different minds going in different directions; then it creates that much more opportunities for our citizens… which ultimately we want to be able to give our citizens a choice," Barnett said.

MCN Principal Chief George Tiger suggested in an interview with Mvskoke Media Editorial Assistant Gary Fife that it might take time to build some of the enterprises acquired by MCN into income generating developments.

"I guess the biggest thing that we can say about the RiverWalk and the Country Club is that sometimes it's unfair to compare those purchases in terms of return on investment; if we compare it with the gaming side," Tiger said. "Because gaming certainly is always going to return quickly."

Tiger said that having both organizations will be beneficial to MCN.

"I don't see it as competition. I think we have two resources that can allow for additional opportunities maybe we haven't had in the past," Tiger said. "I just see it as a good opportunity for the Nation to do some things with both MNBE and OneFire."

Neal's Furniture plans to complete new facility this summer



MNN/Darren DeLaune

At the end of the summer, Muscogee (Creek) Family owned Neal's Furniture plans to open a larger 42,000 square foot store at the corner of U.S. Highway 75 and Oklahoma State Highway Loop 56. The current Neal's store at this location will be used to house more inventory.

Muscogee (Creek) owned store ready to expand

Darren DeLaune*/MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) family owned Neal's Furniture is making changes. Across from the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Complex, Neal's Furniture and United Furniture are combining to build a bigger store for their customers in Okmulgee and the surrounding areas.

Neal's and United Furniture are both owned by the same family. Although, when the new store opens, United Furniture will become Neal's Furniture.

sits behind the new building at Oklahoma Highway Loop 56 and U.S. Highway 75, will be used as a warehouse to store more inventory.

"Our customers will not have to make that drive to Tulsa or to Oklahoma City to find the furniture or appliances," John said. "They will be able to stay close to home knowing that we are going to have what they want."

John's grandfather (Gaines Neal a.k.a. Lamone) opened Neal's furniture over 60 years ago and his parents are also in the furniture business. He feels that they gave him and his siblings the experience they need to continue the family's success.

"We are third generation in this family business with my brothers and sisters; there are

"IT IS FOR OUR CUSTOMERS. WE WANT TO BE ABLE TO ACCOMMODATE THEM WITH OUR FURNITURE APPLIANCE AND BE ABLE TO HAVE MORE VARIETY AND GREAT PRICES."

— UNITED FURNITURE STORE MANAGER JOHN NEAL

"Due to high demand from customers in our Okmulgee area, we are currently under way with our showroom floor," Store Manager for United Furniture in Henryetta, Okla., said.

The new store, which is set to open in late summer, will have a 42,000 square foot showroom floor. With more space, the company will be able to buy in bulk and provide more competitive prices for their customers.

"It is for our customers," John said. "We want to be able to accommodate them with our furniture and appliances and be able to have more variety and great prices."

Neal feels that with this new store, they will be able to compete with the bigger stores in Tulsa. The old facility, which five of us altogether," John said. "Four out of the five are in the family business. We did not get pressured to be in the family business. We all wanted to learn and when it is our time; we knew we would be ready."

John thinks he has the best customers around. He feels everyone knows each other and there is a down to earth feeling when it comes to the small towns here.

"Our customers are very loyal," John said. "They will either buy what we have or what we can get them; or they will not buy at all. They will stay with us and we are very appreciative of that."

For more information on the new store call John Neal at: 918-652-9229.

Tourism and Recreation gives presentation on MCN guide



MNN/Amanda Rutland

OKLAHOMA CITY — Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Tourism and Recreation Project Specialist, Brian On-the-Hill speaks March 12 about the department's project, the 'Guide to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation;' during a meeting held by the Oklahoma City Chapter of the American Indian Chamber of Commerce held at the Twin Hills Golf and Country Club in Oklahoma City.


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$5 Match Play. One (1) $100 Free Play Hot Seat prize drawings every 15 minutes from NOON - 8:00PM. One (1) $1,000 Cash + gas grill Hot Seat prize drawings every hour from NOON - 8:00PM.
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NOON - 8:00PM
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BUNNY MONEY
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$5 Match Play. One (1) $100 Free Play Hot Seat prize drawings every 15 minutes from NOON - 8:00PM. One (1) $1,000 Cash Hot Seat prize drawings every hour from NOON - 8:00PM.


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Muscogee (Creek) woman creates Herbal Warriors Project



MNN/Kyla McKown
Muscogee (Creek) citizen Cassandra Thompson holds the first Herbal Warriors Project meeting March 12 at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Council House.

Muscogee (Creek) citizen inspired by culture

Kyla McKown/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — After a two-week course with the Flowering Tree Permaculture held the Pueblo Food Experience, Muscogee (Creek) citizen Cassandra Thompson is looking to bring a similar project to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

The Herbal Warriors Project held its first meeting March 12 at the MCN Council House. A number of citizens showed up to hear more about the three-month pilot project offered for people who want to live a healthier lifestyle through a Mvskoke diet.

Thompson has partnered with the MCN Museum, Cultural Center and Archives for support and help getting the word out.

Thompson spoke about the Pueblo Food Experience, which followed Native people who ate only Native foods for a three-month period. The state of participants' health condition was monitored with the hope that the diet would improve their well-being.

"They taught us how they live by everyday gardening," Thompson said. "Just taking care of themselves and being able to sustain."

Thompson said that after the experiment period, some of the volunteers were able to get off medications due to the diet. Others lost anywhere from 30 to 68 pounds.

"An Elderly lady said she was on medication and was able by end of program to get off some of them.

"I know they said while doing the program, they encouraged everyone to stay on their medications by doctors' orders. If they were already on it, just stay on it but one was able to get off some of her medications," Thompson said.

MCN Department of Health Acting Diabetes Manager and a registered dietician, Sharon Iverson, said it is possible to make dietary changes and get off certain medications.

"Early stages of diabetes, even at later stages; making a dietary change can be the equivalent of one pill," Iverson said. "Pills are not the magic. Sometimes for some people a dietary change can do the same thing."

Thompson, who has worked with Mvksoke Food Sovereignty Initiative, has put effort in the past three or four years to mend Muscogee (Creek) community members by showing them a healthier lifestyle.

"I helped Okemah elders and sparked their idea to start a community garden," Thompson said. "It's their third year and they're all excited. They've went on with it and made it their own. I just gave them the idea."

In the first meeting, Thompson and participants discussed bringing a botanist and medicine man to future meetings to discuss herbs and plants.

The meetings will also be a way to share healthy Native recipes.

Thompson spoke about the project in a historical context.

"When you go back in history, the first thing archeologists look at is diet. What they found out is we were healthy.

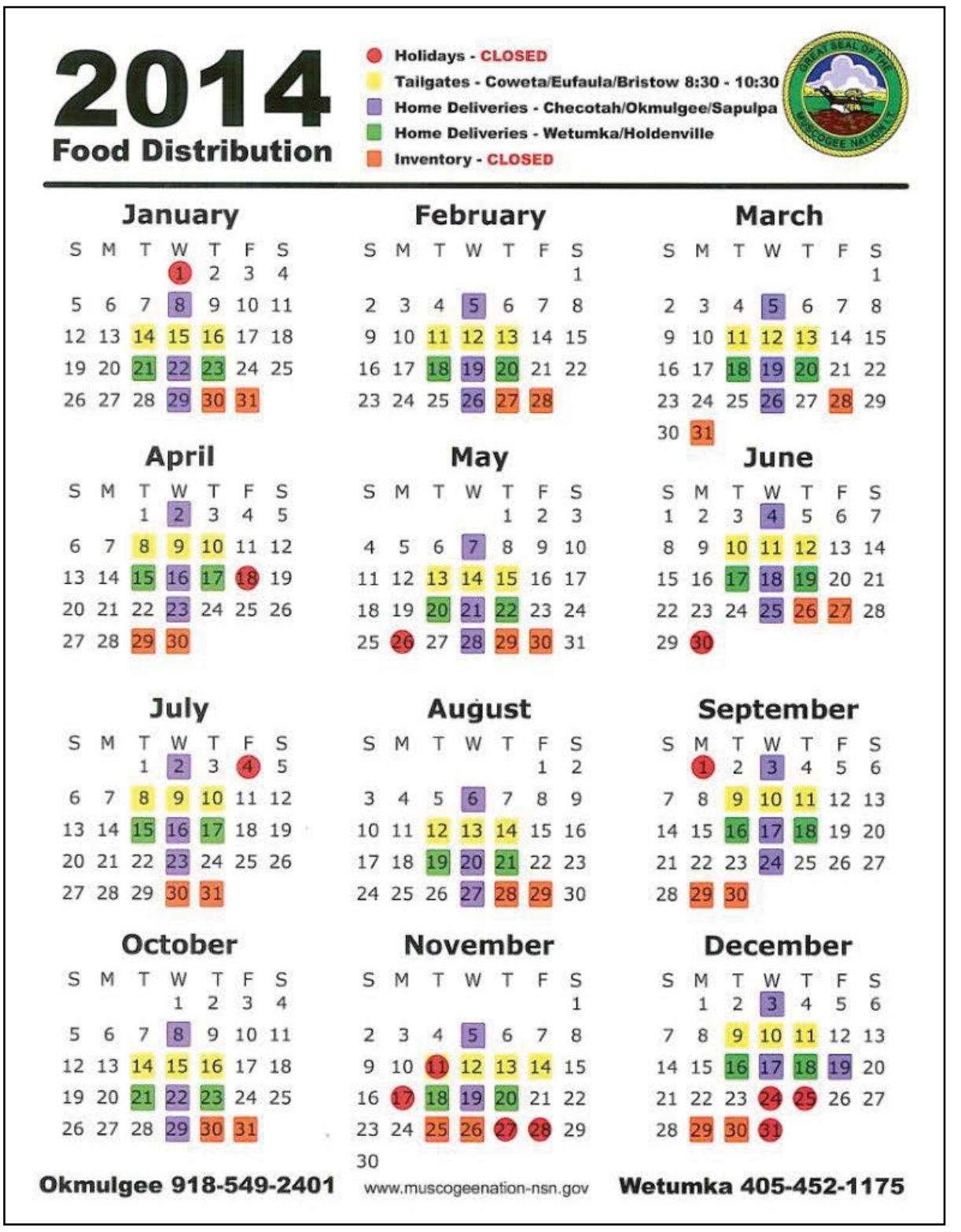
"We were living all those years without grocery stores. We were living and thriving and now it's just kind of sad to see these chronic diseases that could've been prevented," Thompson said.

In April, the group plans to meet once a week. Once the project is off and running, Thompson said the group will meet for check-ins at least one day each month.

For more information about the pilot project, contact MCN MCCA Interim Director Justin Giles at: 918-549-2434. For more information on the Pueblo Food Experience visit: www.floweringtreepermaculture.com.



MNN/Kyla McKown
Attendees discussed a three-month pilot project offered for people who want to live a healthier lifestyle through a Mvskoke diet.



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Railways seek safety towers on tribal lands

Tribes, railways work on agreement toward PTC installations

Kyla McKown/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — With the number of locomotive train wrecks over the years; in 2008, the Rail Safety Improvement Act was put in place.

According to The Federal Railroad Administration Office of Railroad Safety, since 1971, the National Transportation Safety Board has demanded better technology for accident prevention.

The Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008 was set to install Positive Train Control wayside poles across the U.S. alongside existing tracks. This act requires completion of the project by Dec. 31, 2015.

Burlington Northern Santa Fe Corp. (BNSF) Railway Public Affairs Director Joseph Faust said PTC is a mechanism that provides more operational control in the interest of safety.

"It's a safety measure that will protect and adds a layer of protection for trains that move through various communities," Faust said. "Now part of what is needed to make the PTC; is make the process work efficiently on the certain amount of telecommunications of those towers."

The cell towers, or wayside antennas, are to be placed across the 60,000 miles of tracks in the nation. The act calls for a tower every one to two miles; which totals about 22,000 towers.

Terry Cole, Muscogee (Creek) Nation Cultural Preservation Deputy Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, said he's not sure how many towers will be placed in MCN territory but that this placement includes pre-removal geographic locations, as well as the Trail of Tears removal route.

Currently, the Federal Communications Commission has put installation of PTC installations to a halt across the country; six months after the FCC realized in May 2013, that the railways weren't complying with the FCC laws.

Before the hold, the railways weren't consulting with Native American tribes in regards to the National Historic Preservation Act (1966); specifically Section 106, which deals with project implementation and the impact that project will have on cultural and historic properties.

According to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation website: www.achp.gov; NHPA states it, 'establishes historic preservation programs for Native Americans, Alaskan Natives, Native Hawaiians, State and local governments in the administration of a national preservation program. '

MCN Cultural Preservation Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Emman Spain explained how the unauthorized installation of these wayside antennas was discovered.

"They weren't aware until about a year ago; when one of the Northern reservations had a lady that works with cell towers and happened to see a couple new cell towers on the reservation next to railroad tracks and contacted the FCC," Spain said. "They called her and said, 'we don't know anything about it.' "

Thousands of installations had already been completed before another 22,000 were put on hold.

Railways must now consult with tribes before moving forward with the project.

According to the NHPA Section 106, a federal agency may intervene if said agency determines that an activity could affect, 'Historic properties that include National Register of Historic Places or that meet criteria for the National Register. This includes: Districts, sites, buildings structures, objects listed on the National Register as well as any Indian tribe or Native Hawaiian organization that may attach religious or cultural importance to them.'

Organizations looking to develop must consult with tribal entities and historic organizations to resolve any adverse effects, usually resulting in a memorandum of agreement.

This can include a variety of sites for Native American tribes.

"Anywhere Creeks may have inhabited; died or crossed. We have areas of interest there because we may have sites of significance to us," Cole said. "They could be building right on top of a human burial."

So, where is the issue now?

Spain said the railways want the tribes to accept a categorical exclusion of the wayside antennas that have already been placed. According to: www.environment.fhwa.dot.gov; categorical exclusion is, 'a category of actions which do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment ... and ... for which, therefore, neither an environmental assessment nor an environmental impact statement is required.'

"I don't think the tribe should believe in categorical exclusion," Spain said. "Because so many times; federal agencies use that to get out of archeology because it is expensive and try to say, 'well too many times places are already developed and find human remains there because of the exclusion.' "

The railways want to streamline the process for the rest of the installments and inspections on the areas of Native American interest. Cole and his department do not agree.

"We don't want to streamline the process where you don't have to comply but railroads would like to say, 'Hey it's already disturbed. There's gravel, no sites. Just sign off.' And we're not going to do that."

In November 2013, Cole and a number of other tribes from the region met in Tulsa with the FCC and the railways to address the historic preservation review process under Section 106 and the wayside facilities' need to deploy more PTC's.

Cole said the Tulsa-area meeting spurred progress in the PTC installation halt.

"At this point; we haven't got a process down to handle this magnitude of reviews but we will work all together as partners and work together to come up with a process and agreement we can all live with and at the same time; comply with federal regulations," Cole said.

He said of a Tower Construction Notification System is being considered; where all said tower signals would go through Washington D.C.; and then outward to notify tribes of upcoming PTC construction scheduled in their areas.

"Through a TC system; they want a way to broaden out to all the tribes and can see areas of interest," Cole said. "It may overload the system. They don't know yet."

According to Cole, the tribes have the option to charge for the time they spend reviewing wayside antennas.

"A lot of them try to stay up with each other to keep costs the same across the board," Cole said. "We charge for cell tower reviews and it really helps our office. And we're able to use it as we see fit."

If the tribe is consulted about an area that may contain burials, MCN will work with the agency to either avoid or minimize any impact or make an agreement to mitigate the problem.

"It's unlikely with them to mitigate it with data removal and collection," Spain said. "Most likely; it'd be avoidance since it's a small foot print. They'd be able to move it over to not be on the burial."

On the other side of the issue, Faust said that the negotiations between tribes and the FCC are ongoing.

"I don't want to really speculate on anything at this point but everyone is talking," Faust said. "Both sides are talking and hopefully the matter will be resolved by the stated deadline."

However, Cole doesn't believe the deadline will be reached by December 2015.

"The only way that it is going to be resolved to me and a lot of tribes, is amending that law; extending the deadline," Cole said. "Deadline of 2015, there is no way tribes can review that many and that's the only solution I can think of right now; is to extend that deadline."

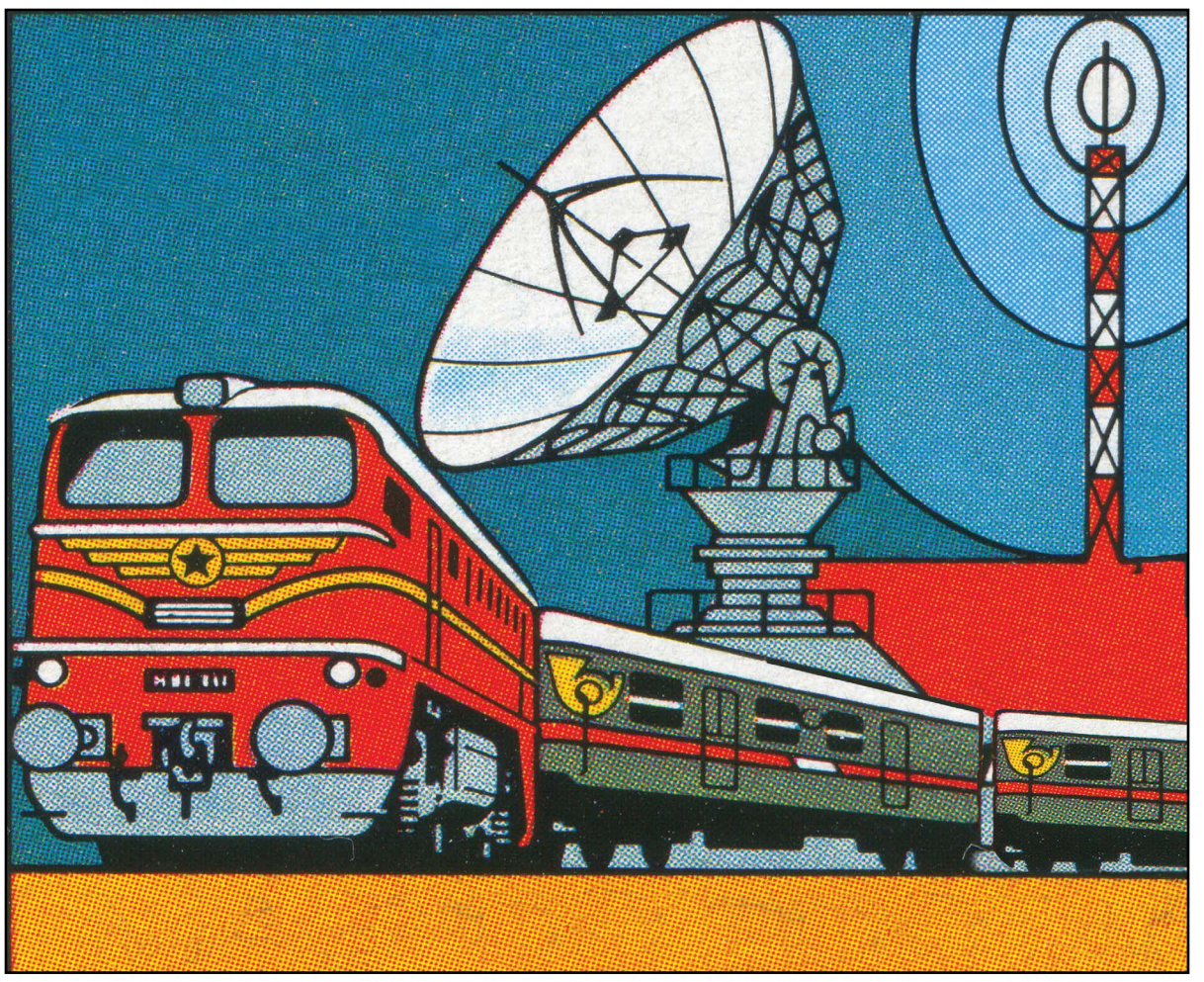
Cole said the MCN Cultural Preservation Office is being inundated with forms from railways seeking to develop in tribal areas.

"Our TCS coordinator, it's all she can do to keep up 50 or 60 a week and you throw another couple thousand at us," Cole said. "Installed by December 2015; that's going to be a problem; so the FCC is trying to find a way to streamline the process."

As of now, the installation hold is still on but Cole said the negotiations regarding a system is still in progress. A beta test of the TCNS was demonstrated at meetings in Tulsa, Okla., and Rapid City, S.D.

According to a Jan. 8 letter from the FCC to the Association of American Railroads Assistant General Counsel; before they are accepted, each TCNS submission should include a number of items such as: history of railroad line construction; location and details on all listed or determined eligible historic properties along tracks or within a half mile of the track; photographs and a number of other requirements.

Attempts to speak with FCC officials about this issue were unsuccessful.



Shutterstock & MNN/Amanda Rutland

The installation of Positive Train Control wayside antennas have been put on hold until further notice due to an agreement between the railways, the Federal Communications Commission and Native American tribes.

TANF participants excel with help from program

Enrollees speak of accomplishments

Jessica McBride/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Family Assistance, of the households that participated in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program in 2010; 1.2 percent were Native American.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation TANF Program strives to increase the self-sufficiency of its participants by providing financial assistance to aid families in achieving their goals while helping them gain employment.

"I didn't know the service offered all the stuff that they did," said a TANF participant who wished to remain anonymous.

The participant was laid off from her job and went to TANF to help her get back on her feet.

"It was hard to find a job… I kind of just like hit rock bottom," she said.

After being employed for a year; the participant will complete the TANF program in March. She set goals to buy a house and to go back to school; and has achieved the goal of purchasing a home while on the program.

The participant said that the financial incentive she received weekly while she was working helped her with unexpected expenses while striving towards greater self-reliance.

"It's that little boost that helps you," she said. "If I needed anything; you know; they were there to help me."

Some TANF participants are child-only cases. These are households where the child is eligible for TANF services because they are enrolled in a federally recognized tribe and meet the eligibility requirements.

One of the services that child participants can benefit from is an extra-curricular activities allowance.

Gail Stehwein noticed that her grandson, Mark, was good at running. She encouraged him to participate in track and TANF helped him pursue that activity.

"He has achieved confidence in himself now. Before, he was very introverted and shy and almost defensive," Stehwein said.

Mark is 18-years-old and is on track to graduate high school in May 2015. Mark is enrolled with the Arikara Nation (Sahnish), which is part of the Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation located in South Dakota.

Stehwein said that Mark is interested in seeking a career in physical therapy or sports medicine because of his passion for sports.

"He definitely needed other activities… it just helps them along with life," Stehwein said. "It helps them socially and it helps them just achieve what they may have inside of them that they don't even know they have."

For more information about MCN TANF, contact: 918-732-7985.

Award winning artist inspired by Mvskoke traditions



Mvskoke Media/Gary Fife
Muscogee (Creek) artist Sandy Fife-Wilson displays and discusses her traditional artwork.

Fife-Wilson named 2014 Artist of the Year by MWL

Gary Fife/*Radio Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — "I'm just glad the good Lord has given me the ability to do my artwork and keep my fingers nimble; my eyesight, so that I can do all these things that I love and carry on the traditions."

That is the reaction of Sandy Fife-Wilson about being named 2014 Artist of The Year by the Mvskoke Women's Leadership group.

Fife-Wilson was among the slate of awardees named by the group in March.

For Fife-Wilson, creating her artwork of woven sashes, carved shell art jewelry, baskets and paintings, has been a life's work.

She has attended prestigious schools such as the Institute of America Indian Art in Santa Fe, N.M., among others; gaining exposure to many well-known Native contemporary artists.

But she said; she looks to her own heritage.

"I would describe it as carrying on the traditions," Fife-Wilson said. "I've tried to learn the traditional techniques of doing the art. A lot of the designs I use are Southeastern culture designs. In the sashes; lots of them, I use the Creek colors and the designs that the Creeks used."

Fife-Wilson draws on her Muscogee (Creek) heritage for portions of her artistic inspiration, utilizing old photos and artifacts as sources and her knowledge of historical interactions between tribes.

"A lot of them are old designs I've seen on sashes worn by the men when they were still in the East and so I've used those," Fife-Wilson said. "The incorporation of beads, I know; a lot of tribes traded and a lot of them were friendly with other people and they learned different techniques from others."

But she also has her own tastes and preferences among this style.

"Most of the things, like in the weaving; I usually use my own colors that I like or if it's something traditional I must use the same colors. A lot of times, I'll change them around; use more colors that are used today, contemporary uses," Fife-Wilson said.

Fife-Wilson has taken commission to make pieces such as the sashes worn by men in ceremonial functions and has also created them for her own artistic satisfaction.

"The ones with the tassels, the men tell me now, 'the bigger; the flashier,' the more they like them as stomp dance belts.

They use these with the tassels on them. Some of the ones like the diamond or double diamond design I have. A lot of the men wore them across their chest, just a sash or a strap for their bags. I've seen the wider woven pieces used as turbans," Fife-Wilson said.

Like many Native artists around the country, Fife-Wilson feels it is vital to perpetuate Native and especially, Muscogee culture in art.

"For one thing, we want people to know about our culture. By continuing, using the old designs; even if we stylize them a little bit; using the old designs and old traditions, it keeps that culture alive.

"It's kind of like the language—if you don't use it; you'll lose it. Some of the tribes, I've had some people come to me and ask me to do some finger weaving for them because then can't get anyone in their tribes to do it anymore," Fife-Wilson said.

Fife-Wilson has received recognition for her work. Among her awards are honors from: the Five Civilized Tribes Under The Oaks competition, the Cherokee National Holiday Art Show and the Creek Festival Art Show.

Her resume lists dozens of other awards and prizes. She has shared her skills in several schools; including Bacone College and the IAIA. She also owned her own business, the Fife Collection in partnership with her sisters.

Rachel Sourjohn, Chair of MWL explained why Fife-Wilson was selected for the honor.

"It is the because of her commitment," Sourjohn said. "She exemplifies what it means to be a Muscogee woman. She is a good leadership example."

Fife-Wilson's work has been an integral part of her life and expects it will remain this way. She shared some of her plans for future works.

"I've thinking of some larger projects," Fife-Wilson. "Some different things besides just sashes and straps and things like that. I've been thinking about some other projects to do; wall hangings or more sculpture like things."

Sandy Fife-Wilson is the fifth child of James and Carmen Griffin-Fife and was born in Dustin, Okla. She is a member of the Wotko (Raccoon) Clan and Tukvpuce Tribal Town. She serves on the Board of Trustees at Thwarle Indian Baptist Church in Dustin. She is currently retired and living in Morris, Okla.

MCN Housing uses new materials constructing WIC building



Submission
The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Housing Division and Tribal Construction Services Program work to install Structural Insulated Panels in the new Women, Infants and Children Program building at the MCN Tribal Complex.

SIPS save the Nation time and energy

Chelsie Rich/*Project Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Housing and Tribal Construction Services Program are collaborating on the construction of the new Women, Infants and Children Program building on the MCN Tribal Complex.

Housing uses the Structural Insulated Panel System to build more energy efficient homes and has implemented this process into the construction of the MCN WIC building.

The mission of the MCN Tribal Construction Services Program is to provide the most innovative construction methods possible for the benefit of MCN and hold paramount the safety, health and welfare of the public served by the Nation.

"The WIC building itself is the first commercial job that the SIPS panels have ever been used on, inside the tribe," Brad Fox, MCN Housing Department Secretary said.

Housing and Tribal Construction are using this project as a training exercise and have workers from both departments working on the building.

"We look to do this in the future; so we would have hands on experience on how it's installed; how it's put up," Fox said.

The SIPS panels have different parts that are ordered throughout the U.S. and shipped to the SIPS plant in Wetumka, Okla. where they are built and then stored for use in housing projects.

"The SIPS is a foam core, sandwich core between the foam and OSB on the outside… they have a spline on them and that's how they go together," Albert Poole, Manager of the MCN Housing Development Department said.

Traditional stick framing and batt insulation were being used before this process and the switch to SIPS panels not only allowed saving in energy and labor costs.

"On traditional stick framing you got to put up your OSB then go back and put your batt insulation in. Once you put up the panel, its all there; your done," said Poole.

Housing is residentially certified to install SIPS panels and is in the process of becoming commercially certified so that the panels can be installed anywhere and even sold to the public.

Other tribes that have showed interest in the panels are waiting until the panels are available to the public.

"That's the goal here in housing is to move the SIPS plant out to where it can be used as a business," said Fox.

The installation of SIPS on the WIC building is almost complete. The installation of the heat and air system, electrical and plumbing will start within the next two weeks.

Completion of the WIC building is set for the end of May.



Instructor encourages Mvskoke language education



MNN/Jessica McBride

Mason Public Schools Mvskoke Language Mvhayv (teacher/instructor) Gracine Hicks teaches the kindergarten class to say colors, animals and weather conditions in Mvskoke.

Students to compete in language fair

Jessica McBride/*MNN Reporter*

MASON, Okla. — In a small elementary school located on the back roads of Okfuskee County, Mvskoke Language Teacher and Muscogee (Creek) citizen Gracine Hicks teaches the language of her people to the pre-kindergarten through sixth grade classes.

This is the second year Hicks has taught at Mason Public Schools; and this year she has coached the kindergarten and first grade classes for their performance at the Oklahoma Native American Youth Language Fair April 7 at the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History in Norman, Okla.

"They just absorb everything I say… and they just want more. It's not enough for them," Hicks said.

The elementary and middle school students are not the only classes in the MPS system learning about the Mvskoke culture. Hicks reached out to Mason High School Home Economics Teacher, Lana Fraser, to have her students sew ribbon skirts for the girls to wear for the performance.

Hicks attended ONAYLF last year, and was shocked to see little participation from groups using the Mvskoke language.

"I thought that's sad… to me our language is so important that if we don't get it out there to other people; we're going to lose our language," Hicks said.

MPS Superintendent Jerry Bogle said that having the Mvskoke language program was something that the children needed.

"It's something we had seen that we needed to get back; at least start teaching our kids so they can start teaching their heritage from a language stand point as well," Bogle said.

Bogle said that they hope to expand the program in the future.

"What's nice about it is all our students have really taken to the program; and it's kind of opened up a whole new culture and atmosphere for them," Bogle said. "We're hoping that as these kids get older and as this program evolves too; that these kids become fluent… you have to start here and hope 10-15 years down the road it just keeps being handed down."

Hicks is grateful to the students for helping her remember the language.

As the mvhayv (teacher), Hicks is excited to spread the Mvskoke language and create fluent speakers in the years to come.

"It's just exciting for me to teach them," Hicks said.

Citizen shares, teaches culture through flute making, playing



MNN/Kyla McKown

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Nelson Harjo demonstrates flute making at the Exploring the Arts Lecture Series March 20 at the Jenks High School Planetarium in Jenks, Okla.

Harjo participates in Exploring the Arts Series

Kyla McKown/*MNN Reporter*

JENKS, Okla. — What started as a hobby, has turned into a duty for one Muscogee (Creek) citizen, to preserve the art of Mvskoke flute making.

Nelson Harjo, who grew up listening to his mother's music, said music has always been a part of his life.

But his craft didn't begin until around 1995 when Harjo attended a Christian family-based camp that was hosting a flute making class.

"I had heard the flutes and liked the way they sounded and thought maybe I'd take the class," Harjo said. "So, I did that. I made my flute and my wife's too. Even my first experience; I began helping other people the class."

After that, Harjo took up flute making as a hobby. But it took years of trial and research before Harjo perfected the flutes and the tuning.

"It took probably four or five years to really learn how to make a really good sounding flute," Harjo said. "Once I began to make a good sounding flute; I began to realize I needed to work on the melody part, which are the holes."

Once Harjo felt comfortable playing his flutes in public, he began playing at funerals, churches and Muscogee (Creek) Nation events.

Recently, Harjo was a part of the Exploring the Arts Lecture Series, hosted by the Jenks Arts District Advisory Council March 20 at the Jenks Public Schools Planetarium in Jenks, Okla.

"SOMETIMES, RHYTHM YOU FEEL IS NOT ONLY PROJECTED HOW THINGS ARE GOING THAT DAY; BUT SOMETIMES IT COMES FROM THE PEOPLE.

"SOMETIMES, RHYTHM STAYS WITH ME AND I BEGIN TO DEVELOP IT INTO A SONG."

- NELSON HARJO, MVSKOKE FLUTE PLAYER/ MAKER

Harjo demonstrated the woodworking process of flute making along with a musical performance of a few of his songs.

Harjo has been teaching a flute making class in the evenings at the College of the Muscogee Nation.

Harjo said that he is one of three Muscogee (Creek) flute makers around today who are preserving and demonstrating the art as well as playing the instrument.

"There are other flute makers out there that are Creek but they don't present it and keep it to themselves," Harjo said. "Unfortunate side of it is when they die; it dies with them and now we're talking about a dying art again."

Harjo's 10-year-old grandson has taken up flute playing and making with the plan that he will be the next flute maker in the family.

"He plays one of the flutes I made for him every day," Harjo said. "I told my wife once he begins to feel the earth and its rhythm and begins to get used to sounds; it won't be long until his songs begin to change even differently from mine. His rhythm and earth sounds he hears will be completely different from my perspective."

Harjo said that's how a lot of his songs come about.

"Sometimes, rhythm you feel is not only projected how things are going that day; but sometimes it comes from the people.

"Sometimes, rhythm stays with me and I begin to develop it into a song," Harjo said.



MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION NATIONAL COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

Pete Beaver



Kyla McKown/*MNN Reporter*

Council incumbent discusses Nation's growth

OKMULGEE, Okla. — While former Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief Robert Perry Beaver was in office, his brother gained interest in MCN legislation.

Nine years ago, Rep. Pete Beaver was looking forward to retirement and free time until his sister-in-law encouraged him to run for the MCN National Council.

"His wife encouraged me to run and be involved with the Nation," Rep. Beaver said. "I got to thinking, I belong to the Muskogee Indian Community and I had a lot of constituents requesting I run for office. So I didn't plan on winning; I planned on doing my bucket list in my retirement years."

Beaver said since becoming a part of the Council nine years ago, he has thoroughly enjoyed the position.

"I enjoy meeting people and looking at the whole part of the organization," Rep. Beaver said. "The people I've been around just amaze you. You can't please everybody but most of the time; you can do basically what is better."

He shared his main objective while holding a seat in the 18th Session this year.

"My main goal within the tribe is to do what is right for the Nation as a whole," Rep. Beaver said.

Rep. Beaver grew up within the MCN boundaries, having spent his early days between Morris and Okmulgee.

"All my life, that's all I've known is being around Creek people," he said.

He said his parents always encouraged him to attend college. He graduated from Northeastern State University, which include: Bachelor of Science and a Master in Education, a Master in Guidance Counseling and a Master in Administration.

Before retiring, Rep. Beaver worked in education for 39 years including teaching, coaching and working as an administrator for the Oklahoma Department of Education.

Since working on the Council, he said not much has changed other than the growth of the Nation.

"Not much difference other than different faces but I see growth in the Nation," Beaver said. "In the 14th Session, I've seen growth within the Nation. Our budget has significantly increased since the time I started."

As a former educator, Beaver said another goal of his is to bring the Nation's youth back to the MCN.

"The Nation won't stop growing; we have to be in tune," Beaver said. "As an educator, I want our young people to come back with the opportunity to help serve our Nation. And I mean qualified people and we have them out there. I'd like to see them come back."

When not working with the Council and his constituents, Beaver enjoys golf and said he hopes to finish his bucket list.

"That's why we need the next generation to come on and they'll be here," Rep. Beaver said. "We have to set things to be right."

Robert Hufft



Jessica McBride/*MNN Reporter*

Second speaker reflects on years of service

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Over his time with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, MCN National Council Second Speaker Robert Hufft recalls working for the tribe in different capacities. He began working for the executive director in 1976 right out of college, which continued for two and a half years.

After Hufft pursued a few other opportunities, now former Principal Chief Bill Fife asked Hufft to be on the gaming board where he served for four years.

"Once I got involved with the gaming board; I started seeing that there was more to the tribe than just the casino part; the part about being on the Council to make a difference to my tribe," Hufft said.

Hufft, who is also Euchee, then ran for National Council in 1997, and served through 2005 when he lost the election.

Hufft said that being defeated helped give him a different outlook and renew his drive for serving citizens.

"I should've gotten beat… I just burned out," Hufft said. "I regrouped myself and said you know; I need to focus."

Hufft has served as the second speaker for the National Council for his past two terms.

One of Hufft's memories while serving on the Council is the Nation's switch from bingo halls to class three gaming.

When it comes to serving on the National Council, Hufft said that he considers what will be best for MCN when he makes his vote. He also addresses life with the concept of always knowing, 'why'.

"When you do something; know why you're doing it. Don't just do it because it's the right thing to do; or you think it's the right thing to do," Hufft said.

Hufft said that the words that describe him are honesty, integrity and character.

During this session, Hufft hopes to work on a website for the National Council so that citizens will have the ability to interact with representatives and keep up with legislation.

In his years of service, Hufft has learned how to work with different opinions and personalities.

"I've learned to be able to communicate to different people; and how to listen and learn to accept that everyone has a different opinion and it's just a matter of how you accept those opinions," Hufft said.

Hufft believes that this translates to his ability to try to help citizens receive answers to their problems.

"I've been through the gambit; so I can appreciate and understand different citizens needs at different levels," Hufft said.

Hufft is a graduate of Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Okla., with a bachelor's degree in accounting.

Hufft is a member of the Deer Clan.

Johnnie Greene



Chelsie Rich/*Project Specialist*

Incumbent prioritizes health, education, elders and communities

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Having served on the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council since 2006, Johnnie Greene, looks forward to her ninth year on the Council.

Greene was originally an employee of the MCN where she worked under the administrations of former Chiefs Perry Beaver and A.D. Ellis.

She decided to run for the Council after retirement.

Greene served on the Human Development Committee until the Council changed to only three standing committees.

Now, she serves as chair of the Health, Education and Welfare Committee.

"I've watched it; the health systems; the college; our higher education division; I've watched it grow," Greene said. "It's so great to see how much they've grown in the years that I have been on this committee."

Greene encourages students to further their education and believes that there are some students who need more motivation.

She says that the health systems have made great changes over the years.

"It shows what our Nation is doing and I'm supporting all our health issues. Our education and the welfare of our citizens; our elders and our young people," said Greene.

Greene also wants to prioritize the MCN Chartered Communities during the Council's 18th Session.

"We have some large communities that have a lot of activities; a lot of members and then we have the ones that do not," said Greene.

She would like to help the economic development of the communication and encourage them to help support the citizens in their communities.

She would like to help the communities further their economic development and encourage them to support their members.

Greene is a full-blood Muscogee (Creek) citizen and a member of the Wind Clan, Kialegee Tribal Town and Springtown United Methodist Church.

Greene has two daughters, four grandchildren and seven great-grand children.

Her hobbies include reading and gardening.

Greene has plans to run for the Council for at least two more years.

"I've enjoyed the nine years I've been on. There's always a challenge and I enjoy especially helping our elders when they call on me," Greene said.

David Nichols



Kyla McKown/*MNN Reporter*

Nichols discusses future plans after 20 years on Council

OKMULGEE, Okla. — After being approached by other Muscogee (Creek) citizens to run for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council, Rep. David Nichols has dedicated nearly 20 years to working with legislation to better the Nation.

With the exception of the 1996-98 term, Nichols has served on the Council since 1993.

According to Nichols, who grew up on his grandmother's allotment in Hughes County, he was never involved much with the MCN until he started talking with other citizens about the Nation.

"Just talking to people and seeing what the Nation was up against in society today," Nichols said. "And I like helping people. So that kind of lead me in that direction."

With the 18th Session kicking off in January of this year, Nichols has a few main objectives he hopes the Council can work toward.

One of those goals is to focus on spending.

"I think we have a good Council now but we need to slow down on spending," Nichols said. "Focus on getting things we have purchased working; such as the RiverWalk and the Okmulgee hospital."

Nichols believes that the Council this session has already made an effort to hold people more accountable for expenditures.

"We need to work on things to improve programs or discontinue them," Nichols said. "It's overall about saving money; investing money and bettering our programs."

Nichols also has a personal goal while serving the constituents.

"Being honest; truthful," Nichols said. "I do a lot of questioning of certain legislation. You have to know the facts. I don't like legislation I have to act on immediately."

As for future plans, Nichols said he might consider running for a higher position.

"Possibly run for second chief. It's a big undertaking. You're only as good as the people behind you.

"So I'd have to look into that. I've served my time as a Council member but it's either that again unless something changes in my family. But I have the support of the family in anything I do," Nichols said.

Native News Today airs 400th episode

Weekly Native show reaches milestone

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — On March 8, the 'Native News Today' production team reached a significant milestone, the show's 400th episode.

Now a weekly show, NNT began in January 2006 on cable access with Cox Communications and was known as 'Muscogee Nation News Monthly.'

NNT host Jason Salsman spoke about the show's early days.

"It is a big change from then until now," Salsman said. "Back then I had consumer grade camera and consumer grade editing and with all of us together made an award winning news show."

Eventually, NNT received an offer from its current network, the CW. This move helped the show increase its viewers.

"With the cable access, we could only show in Tulsa and Muskogee; so we could not get a lot of viewers," Salsman said. "With the move to network television; we were able to show all over Northeast Oklahoma and able to get more viewers. That covers the 11-county jurisdiction of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and also other counties get to view our show."

Salsman remembers when they made it to the 100th episode.

"When we made it to episode 100, we thought that was a big deal," Salsman said. "Now episode 400, that is a long time of putting out a show and I am real proud of that."

When he was developing the show, Salsman had to decide what kind of format it would have and what it would cover.

"When we first began, we had a lot of different ways we thought about going," Salsman said. "We did not know if we wanted to be a 30 minute or an hour show. We also had to see if we wanted to be a weekly show or just run once a month. It started out at once a month but over time turned into what it is now, a 30 minute weekly show."

Throughout time, the show gained more interest, and Salsman and Technical Producer Jerrad Moore gained more experience in front of and behind the camera.

"We have changed the set alone more times that I can count; not to mention all the technical upgrades that were done throughout the years," Moore said. "I guess the biggest change that has had the most impact on the look of the show was the move from physical sets to computer generated backgrounds."

With any type of project, there are challenges and, 'Native News Today' has had its share.

"We had challenges on the setup and if something were to mess up during production; things like that," Salsman said. "Those challenges make you better and you learn how to deal with them and I would not change it for anything. That is how and why we are better than when we first started. We get better every week."

Salsman spoke about social media and how it has helped the show's success.

"Social media has been a big advancement for not only us but for our viewers," he said. "In case if they miss our show on Saturdays they can go to YouTube and they are able to watch it."

Salsman would like to thank all the viewers and supporters of the show. He would also like to thank everyone at MCN for helping start NNT.

"For the Muscogee (Creek) Nation to say on episode one of Native News Today; 'we are going to let this kid fresh out of college to run this show,' shows a lot of trust that they have in me to do my best for this show and the Nation," Salsman said.

Moore also added, "400 episodes have been a blast and I can't wait to do 400 more."

'Native News Today' airs on Saturdays at 1:00 p.m. on CW 12/19. Channel 12 is for Cox Communications while Channel 19 is for network television.

Follow NNT on twitter @ nativenewsguys and like the show on Facebook by searching Native News Today and view back episodes by search for NNT on YouTube.



Father, son turn hobby into business



MNN/Amanda Rutland

The Smoke Signals food trailer began its stay on the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Complex March 11 by giving out free hotdogs provided by MCN Principal Chief George Tiger as a show of appreciation to MCN employees.

Former MCN employee brings food trailer to complex

Kyla McKown/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — David James, a former Muscogee (Creek) Nation employee and Choctaw citizen, has decided to share his hobby with the rest of the MCN.

James and his son, who is Muscogee (Creek), recently opened their Smoke Signals food trailer on the MCN Tribal Complex.

James said he bought the trailer nine months ago with the idea of going to barbecue competitions and cook-offs in his spare time as a hobby.

"My son had an interest into it and it turned from a hobby to a business," James said.

James has been interested in barbecuing since he was young when his grandfather smoked meat at the Choctaw Festival held over Labor Day weekend each year.

"The tribe would slaughter their own beef and buffalo and he'd oversee the meats," James said.

James pitched the idea of having the food trailer to MCN Principal Chief George Tiger; who loved the idea of having it on the complex.

Tiger provided free hotdogs to MCN employees from Smoke Signals during its first day open.

"Every day it seems like there are new people coming up with the regulars," James said. "I've also noticed we're having to go to the store just about every day; which is good because it means the product is getting sold and freshness of the next batch is fresh."

The food trailer offers smoked barbecue meats, daily specials and catering services.

James encourages customers to suggest new items for the menu.

Currently, the food trailer hours are Monday – Thursday, 11 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. and Friday, 11 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

"I've had several wanting us to stay open later to take home to their family for dinners or something," James said.

James said customers should look forward to trying the "Mekko" sandwich in the next couple of weeks.

"We've been in discussion with chief of what the sandwich will be and it'll obviously be the biggest sandwich we offer," James said.

For catering information contact: 918-260-6885 or 918-260-3264.

Citizen releases sophomore album



MNN File Photo

Muscogee (Creek) singer Jamie Coon performs at the 2010 Muscogee (Creek) Nation Festival.

Coon talks about release 'Day After Day'

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Due to recent developments, Muscogee (Creek) singer Jamie Coon has something to be smiling about.

She has had the singing bug from a young age. She started by singing in church with her mother and father and has just released her second album 'Day After Day.'

"This is something that I love," Coon said. "I will continue to do this until I can no longer do it anymore."

She initially moved to California to study at the Musicians Institute College of Contemporary music.

There are things that will delay progress with every project. It was no different for Coon with this new album, which took three years to make.

"Life happened," Coon said. "There are things that can delay but I would not change it. The music was always there and it is what helped me through everything."

There are numerous influences that have helped Coon's growing love of music.

"Thank goodness for my parents to introduce me to this music but my big influences are Elton John, Ronnie Milsap and Elvis Presley," Coon said.

For her sophomore album, Coon says there is a story behind each song. One song 'All I Need' is for her grandparents.

"They were always around and to not have them anymore was hard to deal with. So with that song, it was an outlet for me to help deal with losing them and it was my goodbye," Coon said.

For Coon, she is keeping busy with performances throughout California and keeping herself busy with a few projects.

"I can't go into detail of what they are because they are not set in stone yet; but we do have some new projects that we are getting ready for," Coon said.

Coon wanted to give thanks for everyone that has helped out with her album. Eric Sampson, Pat Evans and Tom VonDoom produced 'Day After Day.' Evans and VonDoom were there to produce her first album 'Everything So Far.'

To hear samples of Jamie Coon's music or for booking information, album releases and tour dates visit: www.jamiecoon.com.

'Day After Day' is available on iTunes and Amazon.com.

Agencies encourage more HIV testing in Indian Country

March 20 marks 8th Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

Kyla McKown/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — In 1992, one Muscogee (Creek) citizen received news that would change her life forever.

"I've been doing AIDS education since 1992 when I found out I was infected with the disease," Muscogee (Creek) citizen Lisa Tiger said. "My ex-boyfriend was infected and didn't bother to share it with me. He ended up dying from an AIDS related illness and I survived it."

The Human Immunodeficiency Virus, or HIV, weakens the immune system by destroying important cells that fight disease and infection, according to www.aids.gov.

If the virus destroys enough CD4 or T cells that the body can't fight diseases and infections, the infection can lead to Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome or AIDS.

"HIV is the virus that can lead to AIDS," Tiger explained. "AIDS is just a syndrome that is the latter stage in the disease."

In Tiger's case, in 1999 she was diagnosed with AIDS when her T cell count fell below 200.

For the past 20 years now, Tiger has worked to spread awareness of the disease. She has also taught others dealing with the infection, how to cope.

"I became an activist because I'm not ashamed to talk about it," Tiger said. "People even today when they test HIV positive there is so much shame involved with having this disease."

She said she believes as an activist, the minimal availability of awareness education is one of the major problems with how society addresses HIV/AIDS.

"I want to reach out to everyone," Tiger said. "It's not a racist disease and I believe we're all indigenous to Mother Earth and we should be kind and helpful to any and everybody."

Elton Naswood, who is a capacity building assistance specialist at the National Native American AIDS Prevention Center in Denver, Colo., also believes there needs to be a significant increase in education of the disease for Native American communities and reservations.

"For our Native communities, the challenges are that HIV/AIDS does not affect our communities, 'It's a gay man's and/or white man's disease,' " Naswood said. "The continued need for HIV/AIDS education and prevention; the lack of accurate data among Natives and lack of adequate resources and funding for Native agencies; these are the biggest problems."

Naswood became interested in sharing HIV/AIDS awareness after his brother, Eldon died of an AIDS-related illness. He said his brother's passing left an unexpected impression on him.

"I feel that most times, our challenges and needs as Native people go left unnoticed and most times termed as insignificant.

"But HIV/AIDS has and continues to have a devastating effect on our people. If we lose another Native person to this disease, we are not only losing a family member but a tribal member; a clan member, a language, a culture; a way of life that we will never be able to restore," Naswood said.

The NNAAPC is a national, Native-specific nonprofit organization that strives to better the wellness and health of Native Americans.

Naswood said the organization offers programs to help promote education about HIV/AIDS, support prevention efforts and help foster healthy attitudes about sexuality and sexual health in Native communities.

The NNAAPC is just one of the agencies that is a part of the creation of the federally recognized National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. March 20 is the 8th annual awareness day, which is held on the spring equinox.

"It is also culturally significant that the National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day is also the first day of spring.

"It is acknowledged that in many Native cultures across the U.S. that the four seasons are highly respected and closely represent the cycle of life. It is considered a time of profound change, new beginnings and birth, a celebration of life for all people," Naswood said.

According to a National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day press release, "NNHAAD is a national community mobilization effort designed to encourage American Indians, Alaska Natives across the U.S. to get educated, tested and get involved in HIV prevention and treatment."

The awareness day was established in 2007 and is funded by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention after a CDC 2011 HIV Surveillance Report, which showed alarming statistics with HIV/AIDS and the Native American population.

"Compared with other races/ethnicities, American Indians/Alaskan Natives have poorer survival rates after an HIV diagnosis," according to the CDC website: www.cdc.gov.

The press release also stated Native Hawaiians/Other Pacific Islanders and American Indians/Alaska Natives had the third and fifth highest rates of new HIV infections in the nation.

With NNHAAD recognized across the country and Native American activists working toward HIV/AIDS education, Naswood and Tiger said they are hopeful for the future.

"I feel though that in my lifetime there will be a cure for HIV and that I will see the day when all our people will be healthy and strong again," Naswood said.

As for Tiger, she said she continues to educate Native American communities while living a healthy life by taking her AIDS medication along with regular exercise and healthy eating.

For more information about National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day visit the NNHAAD website at: www.nnhaad.org or Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/NNHAAD1.

Proposed legislation seeks ACA repeal, may effect IHS



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Changes to the funding for the Indian Health Services has prompted public concern.

Officials speak regarding IHS funding

Jessica McBride/*MNN Reporter*

Contributors: Amanda Rutland
Kyla McKown

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Healthcare and the Affordable Care Act have made headlines in the news recently; but it seems rare to see reports mentioning Indian Health Services.

Regardless, recent events on the federal level may have an affect on IHS.

Problem with IHS

Funding is a predominant issue when it comes to IHS.

"The system is woefully underfunded," Chickasaw Nation citizen and U.S. Rep. Tom Cole said.

According to Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health Revenue Cycle Manager Lt. Cmdr. Amy Eden, MCNDH does not receive enough funding from IHS to fully care for everyone who uses the MCN health facilities.

"The government only funds a pretty low percentage; about half of what we need to run the health facilities," Eden said.

MCNDH Secretary of Health Lt. Cmdr. Seneca Smith said that 2013 federal budget cuts hurt IHS funding.

"The first round of this started with sequestration; where we lost $4.5 million," Smith said. "We were very fortunate that we have increased our third party collections to kind of offset that."

By offering services commonly outsourced to Contract Health Services in house, MCNDH limits the funds sent to third parties.

"We're only able to take care of 50-60 percent of our contract health needs," Smith said. "That's why you're seeing us make the decisions in healthcare we've made in the past two years; is so we can bring services."

Cole said that though the funding is not where it should be, progress has been made.

"…The funding in the last four years is up by 30 percent. Even while over all federal spending has gone down," Cole said. "Now having said that, things are getting better. Are they where they should be? Absolutely not… We have a very very long way to go; but at least the movement's been in the right direction."

Cole believes that tribes are better off taking control of their own destiny by using funds generated through economic development to take care of their citizens.

"You know; the experience I think of all tribes indicates if you sit around and wait on the federal government to do what it's promised to do; you're going to be waiting until eternity," Cole said. "I just think our own people do a better job of taking care of our people than anybody else."

In January, Congress passed the fiscal year 2014 Omnibus spending bill. The National Congress of American Indians reports that in this budget; the legislated funds for IHS would be increased to $4.3 billion; which is $78 million above the FY 2013 pre-sequestration budget.

According to IHS, President Barack Obama has requested a $200 million increase to IHS funding in the FY 2015 budget proposal.

Does the Affordable Care Act fund IHS forever?

The Indian Health Care Improvement Act was passed in 1976 to address the deteriorating health in Indian Country. The passage of this legislation allowed IHS to bill Medicare and Medicaid.

When Congress passed the Affordable Care Act in 2010, the reauthorization of IHCIA was included in the legislation.

This reauthorization made IHCIA permanent so that Congress does not have to approve it every few years.

However, Cole believes that this is the only reason IHCIA was reauthorized.

"I think this idea that Indian health care was approved by the affordable healthcare act is not true. That would've passed on it's own separate," Cole said.

MCNDH has recommended that Muscogee (Creek) citizens apply for health insurance through the ACA website: www.healthcare.gov, so that more money will be provided to clinics for services.

"It goes toward additional equipment, health medical equipment. We're able to hire new staff…" Eden said. "Pretty much can go toward anything that has to do with running the health facilities; so we definitely take advantage of it."

According to Eden, ACA or Obamacare can be beneficial for Native Americans.

"We are encouraging to at least apply and see. There could be something out there completely free and it's always helpful to have that additional coverage," Eden said.

Eligible Native Americans can qualify for full coverage insurance at no cost.

I heard ACA might be repealed?

On Jan. 30, U.S. Senator Dr. Tom Coburn of Oklahoma sponsored the Patient Choice, Affordability, Responsibility, and Empowerment Act, or CARE Act. If this proposal were to become law, it would repeal ACA as well as the reauthorization of IHCIA.

Cole said that if ACA were repealed by any proposal, Congress would work to fund IHS through a reauthorization of IHCIA.

"We would immediately reintroduce the parts that dealt with Indian Health; and I think they would pass easily. That was never the controversial part," Cole said.

Cole supports the repeal of ACA; but believes that a repeal would not be likely under the Obama administration.

Cole said that the repeal would have a minimal effect on Native Americans.

"I think if it's done the right way, it won't affect them at all as far as Indian Health Services are concerned," Cole said.

Cole encouraged Native Americans to hold their representatives accountable to make sure they are taking care of their citizens.

"I understand why people are concerned. They have a right to be, and the performance isn't where it needs to be.

"And; you know; you should not only hold the federal government to account, which all of us should do; you should also make sure you have good, confident leadership in your tribal government that is moving the tribe ahead economically, so that it has the resources to look after it's people in a whole range of areas," Cole said.

The following statement was provided to the 'Muscogee Nation News.'

"Concerning Dr. Coburn's proposal: IHS cannot comment on the proposed legislation to repeal ACA."

At press time, the National Congress of American Indians were still reviewing the proposal.

On the local level, MCNDH is working to counteract limited IHS funding.

"That's why we're trying to create more revenue based services in our system; so that we can offset whatever we're not getting," Smith said.

$4 Million approved for medical purchases during Council session

$200,000 approved for golf course operations

Kyla McKown/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A regular session of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council was held March 22 at the MCN Mound Building in Okmulgee.

The Council addressed the following legislation:

• TR 14-018 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a service agreement between the MCN and the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma Health and Sciences Center for the purpose of providing continuing education at the Indian Health Service annual meeting. Rep. Dode Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 13-0.

• TR 14-020 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a vendor management memorandum of agreement between the MCN and the State of Oklahoma Department of Health Women, Infants and Children Program. Rep. James Jennings sponsored the resolution, which passed 13-0.

• TR 14-021 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a contract with Siemens Medical Solutions USA Inc. to provide remedial maintenance service on certain radiology equipment located at the Koweta Indian Health Center. Jennings sponsored the resolution, which passed 13-0.

• TR 14-022 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement between the MCN and the IHS for the construction, improvement, installation and rehabilitation of domestic water supply, wastewater disposal and plumbing facilities for 80 Indian homes in Creek, Hughes, McIntosh, Muskogee, Okfuskee, Okmulgee, Tulsa and Wagoner Counties. Rep. Mark Randolph sponsored the resolution, which passed 13-0.

• TR 14-023 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a contract between MCN and Springwater Fence LLC for the construction of a fence at the Nation's recycling center. Randolph sponsored the resolution, which passed 13-0.

• TR 14-024 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a service line agreement with Oklahoma Natural Gas for the purpose of providing and maintaining natural gas service to the College of the Muscogee Nation. Rep. Darrell Proctor sponsored the resolution, which passed 13-0.

• TR 14-025 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a street and utility easement across tribal land for the construction of a road widening project and public utilities for the city of Okmulgee, Okla. Proctor sponsored the resolution, which passed 13-0.

• TR 14-026 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a real estate contract for the purchase of property located in Hughes County, Okla. Rep. Thomas Yahola sponsored the resolution, which passed 13-0.

• TR 14-027 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a real estate contract for the purchase of property located in Creek County, Oklahoma. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 13-0.

• TR 14-028 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a contract for the purchase of property located in Okmulgee County, Oklahoma. Jennings sponsored the resolution, which passed 13-0.

• TR 14-029 Honoring the memory of our ancestors and commemorating their legacy. Reps. David Nichols, Joyce Deere and Proctor sponsored the resolution, which passed 10-3 with Reps. Lucian Tiger, Barnett and Randolph voting against it.

• TR 14-030 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement with Creek County for the completion of the Kellyville Road Project. Proctor sponsored the resolution, which passed 13-0.

• TR 14-031 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement with Okmulgee County for the completion of the Arbeka Road project. Proctor sponsored the resolution, which passed 13-0.

• TR 14-032 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a real estate contract and related documents for the purchase of property in Bristow, Okla., for the Nation's Bristow Casino. Randolph sponsored the resolution, which passed 13-0.

• TR 14-033 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a standard form of agreement between the owner and design-builder for the construction of a community center for the Okfuskee Indian Community. Reps. Mitch Jack and Frank Coachman sponsored the resolution, which passed 13-0.

• TR 14-034 Authorizing the principal chief to accept a private sanitary sewer easement for the Dewar Indian Community Center. Jennings sponsored the resolution, which was postponed indefinitely.

• TR 14-035 Confirming the nomination of Wilson Bear as a part-time Gaming Commissioner for the MCN Office of Public Gaming. Coachman sponsored the resolution, which was voted on 13-0 to postpone indefinitely.

• TR 14-036 Authorizing the Gaming Operations Authority Board to execute a standard form of agreement between owner and construction manager as constructor with Manhattan Construction – Red Stone Construction services; a joint venture, for renovations at the River Spirit Casino. Rep. Robert Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 13-0.

• TR 14-037 Authorizing GOAB to execute a standard form of agreement between owner and contractor with J.A. Manning Construction Company Inc. for the restoration of the Creek Nation Eufaula Casino parking lot. Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 13-0.

• TR 14-038 Authorizing the executive branch to prepare and submit grant applications to the various federal government agencies and private foundations for both FY 2014 and FY 2015 and authorizing the principal chief to execute all necessary grant documents. Rep. David Hill sponsored the resolution, which passed 13-0.

• NCA 14-023 Authorizing a donation of $2,000 to financially assist Okmulgee Public Schools. Jennings sponsored the amendment, which passed 13-0.

• NCA 14-024 Authorizing a donation of $5,000 to Native American Link Inc. Rep. Shirlene Ade sponsored the amendment, which was postponed indefinitely.

• NCA 14-031 Authorizing the donation of $20,000 to the National Indian Child Welfare Association to sponsor the 32nd annual "Protecting Our Children" National American Indian Conference on child abuse and neglect. Ade sponsored the amendment, which passed 13-0.

• NCA 14-034 Authorizing a supplemental appropriation of $154,000 to the Department of Education and Training FY 2014 budget for the installation of a data management solution. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 13-0.

• NCA 14-035 Authorizing a supplemental appropriation of $82,500 to the Special Academic/Extra Curricular Program FY 2014 budget. Jennings sponsored the amendment, which passed 13-0.

• NCA 14-036 Authorizing a special appropriation of $1,802 to a Muscogee (Creek) student. Tiger and Proctor sponsored the amendment, which passed 13-0.

• NCA 14-037 Appropriating funds of $15,000 for the construction of a fence at the MCN Recycling Center. Randolph sponsored the amendment, which passed 13-0.

• NCA 14-038 Appropriating funds of $85,000 to be used toward the purchase of real property located in Okmulgee, Okla. Jennings sponsored the amendment, which passed 13-0.

• NCA 14-039 Authorizing the $4 million expenditure of the MCN DOH Investment Funds for the purchase of medical equipment, facility improvements, liabilities and obligations for the MCN Physical Rehabilitation Center and the Creek Nation Community Hospital. Rep. Johnnie Greene sponsored the amendment, which passed 13-0.

• NCA 14-040 Authorizing the MCN DOH to expend third party budget funds in the amount of $159,143 for the purpose of providing a pharmacy billing project for the MCN DOH. Greene sponsored the amendment, which passed 13-0.

• NCA 14-042 Authorizing the expenditure of grant funds in the amount of $100,000 from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Business Opportunity Grant awarded to the Department of Commerce to provide leadership and entrepreneur training. Hill sponsored the amendment, which passed 13-0.

• NCA 14-043 Authorizing a donation of $2,140.66 to Bristow Public Schools. Hill and Tiger sponsored the amendment, which passed 13-0.

• NCA 14-044 Amending NCA 13-173, appropriating funds to construct a new community building for Okfuskee Indian Community. Jack and Coachman sponsored the amendment, which passed 13-0.

• NCA 14-046 Authorizing a supplemental appropriation of $219,862 to the MCN Employment and Training College Work Experience Program FY 2014 budget. Tiger sponsored the amendment, which passed 13-0.

• NCA 14-047 Authorizing a supplemental appropriation of $538,698 to the MCN Employment and Training Summer Youth Program FY 2014 budget. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 13-0.

• NCA 14-048 Authorizing a supplemental appropriation of $200,000 to the MCN Tourism and Recreation Department FY 2014 budget for the operation of Fountainhead Golf Course. Rep. Adam Jones sponsored the amendment, which passed 10-3 with Nichols, Tiger and Barnett voting against it.

Ade and Jack were absent.

A day in the life of Chief Tiger: part 1



MNN/Darren DeLaune
Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger looks over paperwork and an agenda of the day's events.

A first hand look at leading the MCN: at the complex

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla — Ever wonder what a leader of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation does throughout the day? Chief George Tiger's workday is not your normal 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday-Friday experience. His days usually begin at **6 a.m.** and ends around midnight.

Since the Muscogee (Creek) Nation is considered a sovereign Nation, Tiger's position could be compared to President Obama's. He is the leader of around 77,000 citizens and presides over the 11-county jurisdiction that makes up the MCN.

Feb. 17

After **6 a.m**., Tiger's day begins almost immediately. As soon as he wakes up, he is on the phone talking to lobbyists in Oklahoma City to discuss some issues dealing with Medicare and Medicaid.

8-8:45 a.m. - Tiger looks over the day; what meetings he has planned and where he has to be. His Executive Assistant Rosanna Bear brings in the daily calendar to see what needs to be added to the schedule. She also brings in papers and contracts that he has to look over and sign. Tiger has a 9 a.m. meeting with the MCN Cabinet members to prepare for.

8:45-9 a.m. – Tiger has a brief downtime to skim the local and national papers before his cabinet members make their way into his office.

9-10:45 a.m. – The MCN Cabinet meeting has begun. The meeting included: a presentation from OneFire Holding Company, L.L.C. and a report on the Nicaragua trip.

Dr. King spoke about CMN receiving federal funding. Also, he made a note that about 40 percent of college tuitions have been paid for by federal grants and contracts. Human Resources has hired Dean Hughes as the new manager.

The meeting ended at 10:45 a.m. Even after, department heads were still talking to Tiger in about five minute increments.

11-11:15 a.m. – A meeting with MCN Housing Division Secretary Brad Fox and Housing Service Specialists Lora Harjo-King; discussions were on housing for citizens.

After meeting, throughout the course of his day, Tiger answers many emails and texts.

"There are sometimes where I am in about three meetings," Tiger said. "I will explain to who I am talking to; that although I am looking at my phone, I am still listening."

11:20 a.m. – Dr. Coser brings some of his family up to meet Tiger. He spends a few minutes talking to them about daily things and Challenge Bowl.

After that meeting with Coser, Tiger answers more emails and texts from employees and lobbyists. He briefly talks to the Fox about SIPS panels and looks into paperwork brought in by his assistants. He looks at his agenda for the week and adds what he needs too.

"We have a rule here that when we schedule something; it is subject to change. Everyday will always be different; something new and exciting and challenging that the Nation brings," Tiger said.

At about **11:35 a.m.**, more citizens come in, wanting to meet with Chief. Tiger puts down everything to speak with the citizens to hear how they are doing and if they have any concerns.

"This is why I am here; it is because of the citizens," Tiger said. "In order to be a great leader; you have to listen."

11:35-11:50 a.m. – He spoke with Muscogee (Creek) families. One conversation with the family was spoken entirely in Mvskoke.

11:50 a.m.-12 p.m. – A meeting with MCN Public Relations to talk about policy and the Louisville promotion.

12-12:35 p.m. – Tiger breaks for lunch: although most employees usually have an hour, Tiger has a working lunch to get ready for his 1 p.m. meeting. Tiger's lunch for that day was a patty melt.

Tiger is back in his office looking over paperwork; getting prepared for his meeting and after a few hours he is finally able to finish the local newspaper.

1-2 p.m. – A meeting with MCN Chief of Staff, Dr. Bo Colbert, Secretary of the MCN Department of Employment and Training, Dr. Wayne Johnson and MCN Higher Education Manager Emmanuel Bezzell over possible educational partnership projects.

After the meeting, Tiger was presented with more papers to sign. During that time, Tiger meets with five different citizens. In between each of those meetings, different department heads come in and speak to him.

Tiger talked about how his family has always helped the MCN.

"I have been around the Nation for as long as I can remember," Tiger said. "My grandfather was chief; my cousin Roley Canard was chief."

Tiger also spoke on his mentors.

"Chief Claude Cox, Chief Bill Fife and Chief Perry Beaver have helped me. I can still talk to Fife and go into his office and talk to him about certain situations," Tiger said.

Tiger calls himself a leader, teacher and mentor; but he also mentions that he is a student.

After a few more meetings with different department managers, Tiger has more paperwork to sign and then he prepares for a meeting at River Spirit Casino.

4:30-6:30 p.m. – Tiger attended River Spirit Phase II Oversight Committee.

After meeting is over, Tiger makes trip to Bristow to end the day.

Stay tuned for part two, an evening with Tiger and his family.

DeLaune's Corner: This is the greatest day of my life



From the mouths of babes

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — One day I was driving around town with my daughter. We were on our way to her friend's house when she said, "This is the greatest day of my life."

Before I go any further, my daughter is still a young one and I am used to talking about, The Disney Channel, Nickelodeon, Monster High Dolls and the dreaded occasional subject that I hate with a passion, boys.

This conversation on her 'greatest' day I wanted to elaborate on. So I asked her to tell me more about it. She told me that her greatest day is when she wakes up; sees all of her family, friends and gets to play.

I told her that is everyday. Then she smiled and said, "You are right daddy, everyday."

The more I kept thinking about this conversation; the more I was happy for her. Everyday is her greatest day.

I asked myself, "Why can't everyday be my greatest day?" I get to do everything she does, more or less. I wake up; see my family (not all of them, only the ones I tolerate), my friends (some of them) and play (or workout).

To some degree, that is the same thing she gets to do.

With the inspiration from my daughter, I am going to do my best to look at everyday as the greatest day of my life.

We all get caught up with trying to make sure we take care of everything and sometimes we forget that we can enjoy the day also.

And for every human being, there will be negatives coming from everywhere. Negatives do not last forever. Negatives can and will be beat.

From now on, when I wake up; I will say my prayers and thank God for another 'greatest' day in my life.

Usually in my columns, I end with quotes and this one will be no different.

"The best day of your life is the one on which you decide your life is your own. No apologies or excuses. No one to lean on, rely on, or blame. The gift is yours - it is an amazing journey - and you alone are responsible for the quality of it. This is the day your life really begins." — Bob Moawad

This time I will leave a Bible passage too.

Psalm 5:3

"In the morning, O LORD, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation."

The time you spend with your children, there are a lot of memories to be made. This one is no different. That is a day I will never forget. Roles were reversed. The parent is usually the teacher and the child is the student.

For that day; for a little while; I was the student, 'young' grasshopper or mosquito. My daughter was my teacher and I could not have been happier.

Experts tout education as key to combat bullying



Shutterstock

Experts believe that the key to combating bullying is education and communication between schools, parents and children.

Empowerment can help make a difference

Jessica McBride/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — According to www.dosomething.org, one out of four teachers do not see bullying as a problem and will only address the issue four percent of the time.

Director of the Ponca Nation Behavioral Health Department and Muscogee (Creek) citizen Dr. Lahoma Schultz believes that schools should learn more about the bullying dilemma in order to understand and fight it.

"We need to admit there is a problem and not only admit it but take action," Schultz said. "Schools need to be educated. The administration needs to be educated. They need to be willing to take some action."

The Oklahoma State Department of Education has a state model policy regarding bullying that can be used to create anti-bullying policies in schools. Parents can also contact school districts to see if there is a policy in place to address bullying.

Donaldson said that sometimes it is difficult to know how to deal with a bullying problem.

"Probably since it's such a multifaceted issue, it's hard for schools to know what to do," Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health Project Director Amy Donaldson said.

According to www.dosomething.org, two thirds of students think that the assistance adults provide with bullying problems is inadequate.

"We need to admit there is a problem and not only admit it; but take action."

- Ponca Nation Behavioral Health Department Director and Muscogee (Creek) citizen Dr. Lahoma Schultz

MCNDH Children's Mental Health Initiative Youth Coordinator Natalie Barnett suggests that parents keep an open dialogue with their children to stay informed about any problems and address them appropriately. Keeping documentation on bullying events can assist parents in approaching school leaders.

Barnett advises parents to watch for symptoms of bullying with their children.

"Offer support. Let them know you are in this with them," Barnett said. "They are not to blame and you will help them through this difficult time."

When it comes to students, MCN Tribal Youth Suicide Grant Social Media Coordinator Suzan Clark believes they can help combat the bullying phenomenon at their schools.

"The main thing is to educate. You know; the kids have to learn like how to speak up for themselves; how to be upstanders," Clark said.

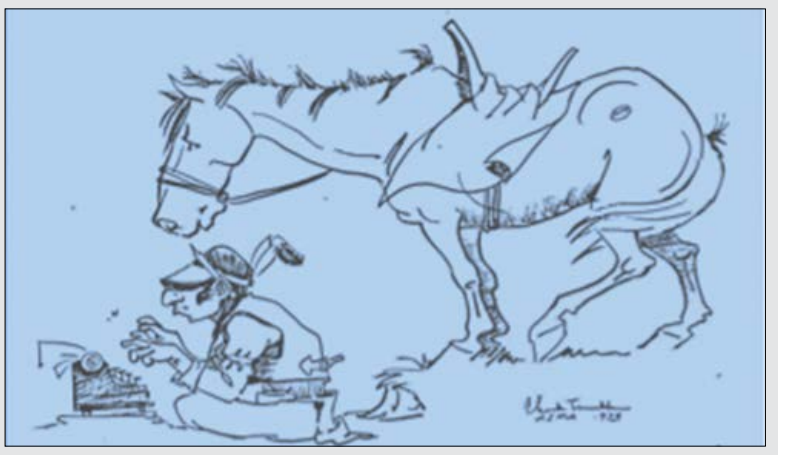
According to Barnett, an upstander is a witness or victim who takes a proactive role in the situation with actions such as telling the bully to stop, telling an adult or authority figure or befriending the victim.

"They need to have that empowerment to know that they can be the change," Barnett said.

For more information on MCNDH Behavioral Health programs to combat bullying contact: 918-758-1910.

For more information on bullying prevention visit: www.bullyingprevention.org.

Emvpanyv: *'One who tells a story'*



'Cultural appropriation,' Hensley's job and wild onions

Gary Fife/*MNN Editorial Assistant*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The flap over non-Natives wearing traditional Indian clothing has come up here in the OK state — "Native America."

It seems Gov. Mary Fallin's daughter, Christina Fallin, was photographed in some publicity picture for her band; wearing a Plains tribe war bonnet.

I'm not a member of a Plains tribe, but I think I remember that the headgear is reserved for men, those who have earned the honors of being awarded the right to wear eagle feathers.

I'm sure the 'headdress' in question was a replica, but still it compares to someone wearing military honors they did not deserve.

I read the letter from Ms. Fallin's band, Pink Pony. Through the flowery language, there wasn't a real apology for the 'cultural appropriation' as they term it.

Hmm, did anybody ask Oklahoma Native American Liaison, Jacque Hensley about this? I know it is not a state policy question, and Christina does what she wants; but since Hensley is handy; wouldn't that have made some sense?

Speaking of our Native liaison…there's a bill in the state legislature to elevate Hensley's job to a full Cabinet position.

Oklahoma House Rep. Chuck Hoskin, D-Vinita, authored a bill that would do so. The General Government Committee approved it in late February. The measure is House Bill 1305. By the way, the new job would come with a $65k price tag.

Alex Weintz, spokesman for Gov. Mary Fallin, said the Governor's Office hadn't looked at the bill. In 2012, Fallin appointed Hensley, a member of the Kaw Nation, to the newly created executive branch position of Oklahoma Native American liaison.

Did you know that Hensley mentioned such a proposal in her January 2014, 'Native American Report?'

"82. Finally, 74 O.S. §1207(b) contemplates the possibility that the Liaison may serve as the Secretary of Native American Affairs (or a successor cabinet position). As relations amongst the various State agencies and Tribes develop, solidify and flourish, the Liaison's role and responsibilities should grow consequently.

"There would then be a greater need for the Liaison to coordinate with cabinet members and agency heads and communicate frequently with each agency's Tribal relations point person. As a result, elevating the Liaison position to the cabinet level may be necessary at a later time from political and practical points of view."

Taking another look at that report. It seems the only place or tribe where something actually happened so far is the Kaw tribe. Hmmm. And…I read where the Kaws were just approved for land into trust for economic development (casino) by the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Kevin Washburn; and the Governor's Office concurred.

We'll keep our eyes (and mind) open.

On a more tasty subject, Tafvmpuce—wild onions!

It's the season for dinners and it looks like they're more popular than ever. I went to the Sapulpa Indian Community Center and tried picking up a couple of dinners to take home and was too late.

The early-bird crowds scooped up all the wild onions and grape dumplings. While I was waiting in a long line, I was thinking that its time for 'Plan B' and settle for ham and beans.

But, no—they ran out of that, too. So, I took some fry bread home.

I had more success at the Tulsa Indian United Methodist Church.

The line was long and sheer torture as I waited. It was torture because; the closer I got to the kitchen; the stronger the odor of onions and fry bread. And it seemed; the slower the line moved.

I kept hoping: "Please don't run out of food!" I was in luck and got a couple of excellent meals, plus some extra fry bread. Boy, the smell of the food filled up my truck cab and made the drive home even longer.

It was worth it. (Burp.)

Lots of stuff happening in Creek country: CMN gets accreditation and funding; tribe is ramping up its effort to fill the RiverWalk development; oh yeah, there's a new 'Guide To The Muscogee (Creek) Nation,' too.

Other doins' coming up soon: the 2014 Scholarship Pageant for Miss and Jr. Miss Muscogee (Creek) Nation and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Festival in June.

Parade applications have already been sent out for that one. Maybe the Star Wars group will make a return. If so, stop by and say, "Hescii."



Hvtvm Cehecares — 'I'll see you again.'

OBITUARIES

JOHNNY CHEEK



CROMWELL, Okla. — Johnny Henry Cheek passed away at his home in Cromwell, Okla., Dec. 2, 2013 at the age of 88. He was born March 7, 1925 in Okemah, Okla., to Lewis and Polly Harjo Arhalokoche.

Funeral services for Mr. Cheek were held at Montesoma Indian Baptist Church in Okemah on Dec. 6, 2013. He was laid to rest in the Montesoma Church Cemetery. Services were under the direction of Parks Brothers Funeral Home, Okemah, and officiated by Rev. Jay Downing.

John Cheek was originally from Okemah, but moved with his family to Frederick, Okla., and this was his home for over 50 years. After retirement and all his kids having graduated, his goal was to return to his Creek homeland with his beloved wife, Lorene. He was finally able to move back to Cromwell in 2010, but Lorene had passed away in 1997 so she did not make it back to Creek country.

He was living with his granddaughter and great-grandson when he died. He and Lorene are now both buried in the Montesoma Cemetery. John was the last living member of his generation from the Cheek family.

Before retirement he worked at the Weaver Public School in Frederick as a custodian, which really included: maintenance man, bus driver, bus mechanic, delivery driver and he drove the students to their basketball tournaments in surrounding towns.

He was a busy man who made sure he always had a job and made sure we finished school, furthered our education, and then went to work.

For a man with little formal education, he kept up with his important papers; saw that his finances were in order; kept his doctors' appointments (which he didn't enjoy) and was diligent in taking his medications and keeping daily records of them.

He and our mother spoke fluent Creek and enjoyed visiting and speaking Creek with their friends and relatives. They enjoyed going places together; such as to Indian craft shows and eating out and were very happy when we could visit them. He especially enjoyed the first family reunion held in Henryetta in 2007. He and his sister-in-law, Nora Cheek, who died in 2012, were the oldest Cheek members there.

He was preceded in death by: his wife, Lorene (Davis) Cheek, and two sons, Kenny and Jerry Cheek.

He is survived by: three sons, John W. Cheek and wife Jackie of Arlington, Va.; Andy Cheek and wife Doreen of Glenn Heights, Texas; step-son, Johnny Joe King and wife Naomi of Cookson, Okla.; two daughters, Barbara Collins of Tulsa, Okla.; Mary Jane Garcia of Dallas, Texas; 14 grandchildren and several great-grandchildren.

We are especially grateful to the pallbearers and men and women of Montesoma Baptist Church who on short notice came on this cold day in December with its icy and treacherous roads to help us bury our father.

For the friends and family who were able to make it to the funeral and burial, the hot coffee and soup were a blessing. God bless all of you, as always.

DALE KING



TUCSCON, Ariz. — Dale Edward King was born in Anaheim, Calif., Jan. 3, 1966 to Charles King and Juanita (West) King. Dale has a twin brother, David King of Henryetta, Okla. Dale departed this earth Feb. 8, 2014 in Tucson. He was 48 years and 48 days old. Dale belonged to the Bear Clan.

Dale was a kind, generous and loving man. He grew up in Henryetta and loved playing sports, especially football. He played high school football with Troy Aikman and they made All District together. After graduating high school, Dale went to college at Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kan., where he was a walk-on football player and graduated with an associates degree in heating and air conditioning.

After college, he moved back to Oklahoma to take care of his ailing mother. At that time, he worked for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation as a driver for the Food Distribution Program. He met and married Sheila Draper and eventually moved to New Mexico and then settled in Tucson. Dale worked for FedEx as a driver for the last 14 years.

Dale loved to watch sports and was a Dallas Cowboys fan and avid golfer. He liked to cook, grill out and invite people over to share a meal with him. Dale loved unconditionally and will be greatly missed by family and friends. He was a kind, loving and generous man to all who knew him.

Dale leaves behind to cherish his memories: one daughter, Kolbi King of Tucson, and Sheila King; one brother, David and Becky King of Henryetta; two sisters, Carolyn King-Simmons of Okmulgee, Okla., and Sherilyn Garmon of Tucson; one nephew, Mathew Simmons of Okmulgee; three nieces, one great-niece and great-nephew and a host of family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents Charles and Juanita King and two brothers, Roger and Danny King.

Funeral Services were held Feb. 15, 2014 at Rogers Funeral Home in Henryetta. Burial and graveside services were held at the Barnett-Fisher Family Cemetery Feb. 17, 2014.

Pallbearers are: Brad Wion, Albert Bidel, Kelly Brown, Mathew Simmons, David King and Bill Draper.

THOMAS PERRYMAN



OKAY, Okla. — Thomas Eugene Perryman, a resident of Okay; passed away Monday, Feb. 3, 2014 at the age of 73. He was born Oct. 29, 1940 to Lewis and Mary (Miller) Perryman in Broken Arrow, Okla. Eugene graduated from Coweta High School in 1959 and played high school football for the Coweta Tigers.

He served in the U.S. Army as a sharp shooter. He was a lifetime member of the Broken Arrow Indian United Methodist Church and was a member of the Beggs Roundup Club; where he was undefeated for 10 years in the wagon races. Eugene enjoyed hunting, fishing and bowling.

He was preceded in death by his: wife, Jacqueline Louise Perryman in 1992; parents, Lewis and Mary Perryman; brother, Henry Clay Perryman and steps-son, Lance White.

Survivors include his: son, Rodney Perryman and daughter, Shelli Thomas both of Coweta, Okla.; stepchildren, Vicki Woods of Pawnee, Okla., Bart White of Tulsa, Okla., Leann Ruth and husband, James of Sapulpa, Okla., and Shawn Johnston of Mounds, Okla.; sisters, Irene McHenry of Tulsa; Agnes Perryman of Choctaw, Okla., Judy Poindexter of Coweta, Shirley Wilton of Broken Arrow, Tenah Neuendorf and husband, Ed of Coweta and Elizabeth Sample and husband, Matthew of Haskell; brothers, Dean Perryman and wife, Darlene of Newalla, Okla., and Lewis Perryman of Coweta; grandchildren, Cheyenne Thomas, Raymond, Richard and Robert Perryman; 40 step-grandchildren and numerous other relatives and friends.

Wake Services were held March 5 at the Broken Arrow Indian United Methodist Church.

Funeral Services were held March 6 at the Broken Arrow Indian United Methodist Church with Reverend Anna Stilwell officiating.

Burial will follow the service at the Bixby Cemetery under the direction of the Jackson Funeral Home in Okmulgee.

Pallbearers are: Jason Perryman, Lewis Sutphin, Hank Perryman, Roy Tucker, Johnny Perryman, Lewis Cash, Jay Sample and Vernon Poindexter.

Honorary Pallbearers are: Rodney Perryman, Chuck McHenry and James Casey.

Military Honors were conducted by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Honor Guard and the Patriot Guard Riders.

Friends may send their condolences to: www.jacksonfuneralhome.com.

BRENDA SIMPSON

OKLAHOMA CITY — Brenda G. Sekayouma Simpson, 57, went to be with the Lord on March 6, 2014, at her home in Oklahoma City after a brief illness.

Brenda was a graduate of Del City High School and retired from Tinker Air Force Base in November 2013, after 30 years of service. She was also proud of her full-blooded Native American heritage, which included the Muskogee (Creek) and Seminole Nations and the Hopi Tribe of Arizona.

Along with being an avid reader, Brenda enjoyed movies and as she called them, her "precious putties" aka her cats, "Lilun" and “Spike.” Brenda was a born again believer in

Jesus Christ and His light was revealed in her strong faith and concern for others.

She was known as a person of extreme generosity and kindness. Her laughter and joy about life touched the lives of many. She cared very much for her husband, sons, family, friends, and for those in need.

Brenda will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

She leaves behind her: beloved husband, Roger of 35 years; sons, Jayson (Micco) of Lawrence, Kan., and Ryan (Lada·hoya) of the home; father, Myron Sekayouma of Del City, Okla.; sister, Janet White and husband Hubert of Lawrence; Sherri Smith and husband Greg of Coweta, Okla.; brother, Steven Sekayouma of Del City; sister, Betty Sekayouma, Midwest City, Okla., along with several nieces, nephews, aunts and uncles.

She is preceded in death by her mother, Christine (Bruner) Sekayouma.

A wake service was held March 9 at Middle Creek #l lndian

Baptist Church in Lamar, Okla., and the celebration and homecoming of Brenda's life took place March 10 followed by interment at Carson Cemetery. Services are under the direction of Williamson-Spradlin Funeral Home at 221 S. Main St., Wetumka, OK, 405-452-3231.

MARY LOUSIE WHITETREE

MIDWEST CITY, Okla. — Mary Louise Whitetree was born Sept. 30, 1964, to Chester Whitetree and Virginia Sue Fish Whitetree in Hawthorne, Calif. Mary was named after her paternal grandmother and paternal aunt.

Mary was called home by her Lord and Savior at 11 p.m., Feb. 18, 2014 at the Midwest City Regional Hospital with family members at her side.

On Saturday, Feb. 15, Mary received a visit from a friend. Mary could not speak but her friend gave her words of encouragement, before he left he told her, 'Always remember Mary; God is good and God is great.' "

Mary nodded her head and shed tears.

Survivors include her: parents, Virginia Whitetree of Wetumka and Chester and Betty Whitetree of Coweta, Okla.; children Adrian Harjo, Sheena Harjo and companion Nick McGirt of Wetwnka, Okla.; companion of 22 years Charles “Bronco" Davis; brother Ronald Whitetree and Gina Wesley; sister Bernadette Whitetree and Stephen Harjo; Donna Piper of Pauma Valley, Calif., who she considered her sister; grandchildren-Waylon Lasley, Aiden, Aniyah and Jaoe Harjo; aunt Diana and Leo Moppin, uncle J.B. and Carolyn Fish of Wetumka, Okla., aunt Emma Fish of Okeechobee, Fla., uncle Bill Davis of Eufaula, Okla., the father of her children Herman Harjo of Holdenville, Okla.; uncle Thomas and Margaret Whitetree of Claremore, Okla., and aunt Vivian Ward of Odessa, Texas.

Mary had two nephews, Ghastin and Gavin Harjo; three nieces, Felicia Whitetree of Okemah, Okla.; Julia and Jessica Whitetree of Pauma Valley; four great nephews - Tim and Ian Berryhill, Chester Whitetree and Dash Martinez, two great nieces - Sincere Frank and Brea Berryhill as well as numerous cousins and friends.

Mary attended elementary school in Norwalk, Calif. The family moved back to Oklahoma in 1975 and she continued her education in the Wetumka Public Schools and graduated in 1982.

While attending Wetumka Public Schools, Mary participated in track, was a member of the school flag team and a cheerleader.

In later years, Mary played softball and volleyball. In her younger years, Mary enjoyed horseback riding and taught her cousins how to ride horses. She also enjoyed the Fourth of July when she was young, even as a teenager. Because her and her brother Ronnie would get to shoot bottle rockets at each other.

Mary was saved and baptized during Vacation Bible School at Sand Creek Baptist Church and was still a Member of Sand Creek Baptist Church. Mary very much enjoyed attending church services at Cornerstone Baptist Church in Wewoka, Okla.

Mary's hobbies included collecting Beanie Bears, traveling and watching Hallmark movies. She enjoyed spending time with her family and would often take time to visit her cousins when she had not seen them for a time.

When her aunt Kathryn "Gas" Fish was still living, Mary would go with her to pick possum grapes or wild onions, often getting a bad case of poison ivy and ending up in the emergency room.

Even though Mary knew she might end up with a bad case of poison ivy, she would still go with her aunt because she did not want her to go out in the country alone.

Mary was employed by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation as a community health representative for the past 13 years until her death Feb. 18, 2014. She loved her job and clients, often going above and beyond her duties.

Many times after she got off from work. While employed as a community health representative, she made several life-long friends whom she loved dearly. Mary loved her family and was loved in return.

Any time a family member or friend needed help; Mary would be one of the first to be there for them. If she could not be there she made sure someone was there to help. Mary will be greatly missed by her family and friends.

Pallbearers are: Stephen Harjo, Jeremy Fish, Sampson Fish, Anthony Buckley Fish, Justin Johnson, Nick McGirt, Robin Roberts and Marsey Scott.

Honorary pallbearers are: Robert Anderson, John Fish, and the CHRs of the MCN.

MCN Community and Tribal Events

MCN Southern Regional Office April schedule

MCN SRO/*Media Release*

WETUMKA, Okla. — The following is the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Southern Regional Office schedule for April.

April 1 - Tax Commission
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Lunch 11-11: 30 a.m.

April 2 - Citizenship
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

April 8 - Tax Commission
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Lunch 11-11: 30 a.m.

April 11 - Women Infants and Children clinic
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

April 15 - Tax Commission
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Lunch 11-11: 30 a.m.

April 18 - SRO closed for Good Friday

April 22 - Tax Commission
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Lunch 11-11: 30 a.m.

April 25 - WIC
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

April 29 - Tax Commission
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Lunch 11-11: 30 a.m.

For more information contact the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Southern Regional Office at: 405-452-1155.

SRO Employment and Training at: 405-452-1106

SRO Housing 405-452-1106

SRO Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (appointment only) at: 1-800-483-1979

SRO WIC (2nd and 4th Fridays) at: 1-800-684-2302.

MCN 4-H D.C. trip registration deadline set for April 1

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation 4-H Program is sponsoring a trip Jun. 21-28 to Washington, D.C., for program members 13-years-old and over.

MCN 4-H Program participants are eligible for this trip at no cost. Deadline for registration is April 1.

For more information or to sign up for the 4-H Program contact MCN 4-H Program Project Manager Billy Haltom at: 918-732-7628.

MCN Behavioral Health to host Youth Summit April 3

TULSA, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Behavioral Health Program invites you to the Third Annual Native Heroes of Hope Youth Summit April 3 at the Tulsa Air and Space Museum.

The event is available for 7th-10th graders and limited to 150 youth plus chaperones. Registration will be coming soon.

For more information, contact Lindsley Harry or Natalie Barnett at the Sapulpa Behavioral Health Office 918-224-9307.

Native Art Market set for April 5

CHECOTAH, Okla. — The first annual Checotah Native Art Market is set for April 5 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Heartland Heritage Center Museum and Gallery, 116 N. Broadway, Checotah, OK 74426.

Both spaces are $10. All items must be made by the applicant and there will be no refunds for no shows. The deadline to apply is April 3.

For more information contact Frankie Blagg at: 918-916-9015 or Jon Tiger at: 918-850-3806.

Wild Onion dinner set for April 5

WEWOKA, Okla. — A wild onion dinner is set for April 5 from 11 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at Sand Creek Eufaula Baptist Church located one mile south and one and a quarter miles west of Oklahoma State Highways 270 and 56.

All you can eat portions are $10 for adults, $5 for children 12 and under; and carryout is $10.

Wild Onion dinner set for April 5

HENRYETTA, Okla. — A wild onion dinner is set for April 5 from 11 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at Little Cussetah United Methodist Church.

Plates are $10 for adults and $6 for children ages 10 and under.

For more information call: 918-752-7731.

MCN National Day of Prayer set for April 5

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Day of Prayer and Fasting has been set for April 5 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the MCN Mound Building. Everyone is invited.

Wild Onion dinner set for April 5

Okemah, Okla. — A wild onion dinner is set for April 5 starting at 11 a.m. at Springfield United Methodist Church located two miles south from Okemah on Oklahoma Highway 27 and then two miles south and for miles east.

All you can eat portions are $10 for adults and $5 for children ages 12 and under.

For more information contact Ethel at: 918-716-8311 or Carol at: 918-716-8267.

5k/1 mile walk/run set for April 12

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A free 5k/1 mile fun run/walk is set for 8 a.m., April 12 at Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology near the softball field.

For online registration visit: www.earlysignup.com/wellness.

For more information contact Bobby Howard at: 918-756-1883 x 140, roberth@health.ok.gov.

MVTO

Grave Creek Indian Baptist Church would like to thank all those who attended the Pastor Ordination of Willie Randall on March 09, 2014.

The Lord blessed us with Pastor Norman Daniel of Butler Creek Church, Ordaining Minister and Pastor Tim Lowe of Randall Baptist Church who brought a wonderful message.

A BBQ (Masseys) dinner was served and we enjoyed the fellowship of several churches. Mvto and God bless you all!

Graduate profile deadline set for May 16

MNN/*Media Release*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The 'Muscogee Nation News' will be featuring 2014 Muscogee (Creek) Nation graduates in the upcoming June 1 edition of the MNN.

Graduate submissions should include full name of graduate, school, university or technical institution, parents, ceremonial ground and/or church, tribal town, clan and any awards/accomplishments (150 total word limit).

A recent digital photo should also be included with graduate's information, which must be submitted via email no later than Friday, May 16 by 5 p.m.

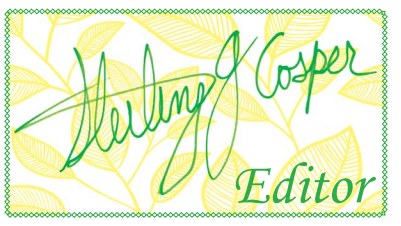
Submissions should be sent to MNN Editor Sterling Cosper at: scosper@mcn-nsn.gov. For more information, please call: 918-732-7697.

Jim Thorpe Games set for June 8-14

SHAWNEE, Okla. — The third annual Jim Thorpe Native American games are set for June 8-14 at different venues throughout Shawnee.

Athletes representing over 70 Indian nations, bands and tribes from across the U.S. will gather to share their talents in the spirit of the "World's Greatest Athlete" and Native American Legend, Jim Thorpe.

For more information about the games call: 405-208-9253 or info@jimthorpegames.com or visit their website at: www.jimthorpegames.com.



MCN hosts promotion with Tulsa Oilers



MCN Public Relations

TULSA, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Public Relations ran a promotion for the Tulsa Oilers hockey game March 16 against the Wichita Thunder. MCN Principal Chief George Tiger dropped the puck for the start of the game.

MCN FVPP receives human rights award



MNN/Amanda Rutland

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation is a recipient of the My Body My Life Human Rights Award for the MCN Family Violence Prevention Program's efforts to combat domestic violence, rape and sexual assault.

Left to right: Victim Advocate Denise McCrary, Office Manager Michelle Bender, Manager Shawn Partridge, Project Coordinator Tania Bardin, Victim Advocate JoJo Martel.

Not Pictured: Victim Advocate Tina Qualls, Youth Advocate Mitzi Pope, Victim Advocate Anne Edwards, Victim Advocate Lesah Deere-Yargee, Victim Advocate Cynthia Mercer.

ISSUE

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

DISTRICT COURT
FILED
2014 FEB 10 AM 10 45
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
DONNA DEAVER
COURT CLERK

Muscogee (Creek) Nation
Plaintiff,
v.
1998 Lexus GS 300, Four (4) Door Passenger Car, Red and White, VIN# JT8BD68S2W0042294
Defendant.

Case No. CV 2014-28

NOTICE OF SEIZURE AND INTENDED FORFEITURE

THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION TO: Jesus M. Villa, P.O. Box 1804, Oklahoma City, OK 73101; and all others claiming an interest in the above described property.

You are hereby notified that the Muscogee (Creek) Nation has seized and intends to forfeit the above described property under the provisions of MCNCA Title 22 §, 2-102, *et seq.*

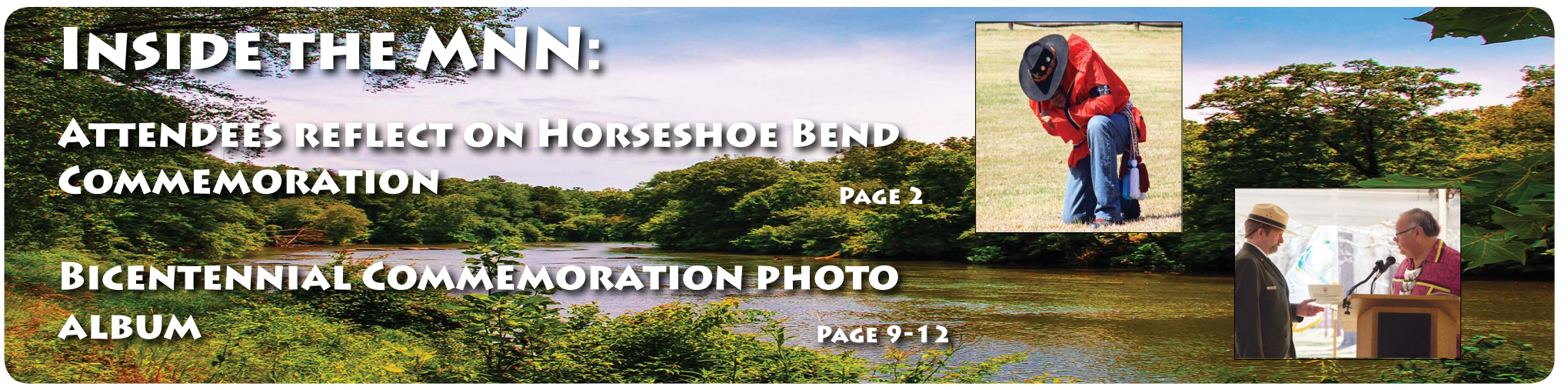
Said property was seized on or about the 6th day of February 2014, from said Michael Alan Metzker and forfeiture is sought for the reason that occupant of said property was in the a possession of controlled dangerous substance and that said property was being used for the purpose of transporting illegal drugs.

The owner, claimant or other party in interest may file a verified answer and claim to the above named property within forty-five days of notice after which time the Muscogee (Creek) Nation will move the Court for an Order of Forfeiture for said property.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shelly Harrison, Prosecutor
Muscogee Creek Nation
Department of Justice
P.O. Box 580
Okmulgee, OK 74447
(918) 295-9720

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
STATE OF OKLAHOMA OKMULGEE COUNTY
The undersigned hereby certifies this instrument to be a full, true and correct copy of the original, as the same appears on the record in the District Court Records
Witness this 10 day of Feb 20 14
Debbie Levy
Court Clerk
Dep



Muscogee Nation News

Official publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and a production of Mvskoke Media

MCN returns to homelands for Horseshoe Bend commemoration

April 15, 2014
Vol. 44, Issue 8
"Tasahce Rakko"
Big Spring

Park Service hosts bicentennial ceremony

Kyla McKown/*MNN Reporter*

DAVISTON, Ala. — The peaceful morning on March 27 was a humbling time for more than 500 people who attended the Bicentennial Commemoration for the Battle of Horseshoe Bend at the Horseshoe Bend National Military Park in Daviston, Ala.

However, the emotional landscape of this very same day 200 years earlier was far from peaceful and varied greatly from the beautiful physical landscape where a moment in history occurred that would forever change the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

On March 27, 1814, a group of Red Stick Creek warriors fought forces led by Gen. Andrew Jackson in a battle that ended the Creek Indian War and lead to the Treaty of Fort Jackson; which required the MCN to cede 23 million acres of the Nation's original territory to the U.S.



MNN/Jessica McBride

Several Muscogee (Creek) citizens from ceremonial grounds held a stompdance March 27 as part of the bicentennial commemoration for the Battle of Horseshoe Bend at Horseshoe Bend National Military Park in Daviston, Ala.

Horseshoe Bend National Military Park Superintendent Doyle Sapp opened the commemoration with a historical encounter of the event, which likened the resolve of the MCN to a log barrier that was strategically placed by the Red Sticks during the conflict.

This wall blocked the only land access to the resisting Muscogee (Creek) forces and their families; who were surrounded on all other sides by the bend in the Tallapoosa River.

"Andrew Jackson's militia couldn't break the barricade down," Sapp said. "Like that barricade that day 200 years ago, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation was not broken at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend. They are here today as honored guests to remember and commemorate Horseshoe Bend and the lives lost."

The U.S. National Park Service hosted the commemoration, which started with traditional Mvskoke hymns sung by the

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DeLaune's corner: my reflection on Horseshoe Bend

Sadness from the past, pride for the future

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

DAVISTON, Ala. — This past week has been an emotional rollercoaster. I, along with my manager and coworkers had the opportunity to go visit Horseshoe Bend National Military Park for the Bicentennial Commemoration of the Battle of Horseshoe Bend in Daviston.

A lot of words and emotions are stirred when you are back in the homelands of your ancestors, sadness and anger to name a few but also perseverance and staying strong.

I will explain what I mean further on in this column.

By now, you should already know what happened at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend. If not I will explain again.

The Battle of Horseshoe Bend occurred when the Tennessee Militia led by Gen. Andrew Jackson and several Muscogee (Creek) and Cherokee allies battled against the Muscogee (Creek) Red Sticks. What resulted from the battle was the largest loss of American Indian life in one battle. Also, the Muscogee (Creeks) were forced to cede over 21 million acres to the United States.

Throughout the week, I was also able to go to the Ocmulgee National Monument in Macon, Ga., to visit the original mounds that our ancestors use to live at.

These two are amazing sites to experience. Both places have so much history to tell. While I was there, that is where the sadness, anger came over me. This land was originally our ancestors' but it was

REFLECTIONS - 6

The Battle of Horseshoe Bend remembered

Scholars recall conflict after 200 years

Jessica McBride/*MNN Reporter*

DAVISTON, Ala. — At approximately 10:30 a.m. on March 27, 1814, the Tennessee Militia commanded by Gen. Andrew Jackson attacked the Muscogee (Creek) Red Stick warriors led by Chief Menawa. The Battle of Horseshoe Bend occurred at a land mass surrounded by a horseshoe shaped bend in the Tallapoosa River near the village of Tohopkv (Tohopeka) in Alabama.

Jackson and his men were joined by Muscogee (Creek) allies, which mainly consisted of residents from the lower territory of the Creek confederacy and Cherokee warriors. The Red Sticks were mostly comprised of residents from the upper territory.

"When the Battle of Horseshoe Bend was happening, that was essentially for the Mvskoke people was a time of civil war… there was an internal conflict," Justin Giles, Interim Director of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Museum, Cultural Center and Archives said.



MNN/Amanda Rutland

An illumination ceremony was held March 27 to remember the lives lost at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend during the bicentennial commemoration for the conflict in Daviston, Ala.

The Red Stick warriors created a fortified fence of logs along the only land accessible entry point to the toe in the river, which housed the warriors and their families. Jackson was held off for two hours during his attempt to attack the Red Sticks through the obstruction, while the bend in the river surrounded the resisting Creeks on all other sides.

While Jackson commanded the troops to set up at the neck of the bend where the Red Stick's wall was located, he ordered Brig. Gen. John Coffee to take a group of mounted riflemen and the allied Cherokee and Lower Creek warriors to surround and guard the other side of the river near the toe of the bend.

Coffee's forces were originally ordered by Jackson to stay on the outside of the bend to watch out for any Red Sticks attempting to escape later in the battle.

The town of Tohopeka was located inside the toe near Coffee's forces on the other side of the river.

This was the home base of the allied Red Stick warriors from the Upper Creek territory. The women and children stayed here during the battle with the hope that they would be guarded from the main assault.

However, a few allied Cherokee in this group took the opportunity to cross using stolen canoes and attacked the town, which was located north of

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MvskokeMedia

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Locals perform play for MCN commemoration attendees



MNN/Darren DeLaune

Actor Lee Borden plays Tecumseh (right) addressing attendees of a Muscogee Nation National Council meeting in the theatrical production 'Tecumseh at Tuckabatchee.'

Production inspired by events leading up to Horseshoe Bend

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

TALLASSEE, Ala. — Members of the organization Friends of Tuckabatchee performed the play 'Tecumseh at Tuckabatchee' March 28 for Muscogee (Creek) citizens who made the trip from Okmulgee, Okla., to attend the Bicentennial Commemoration for the Battle of Horseshoe Bend.

Originally, the play was scheduled to be performed at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend National Military Park in Daviston, Ala., but was relocated to Tallassee Public High School in Tallassee, Ala., due to rain.

The weather did not slow down the performers as they did everything to arrange the high school for the performance.

"There was no way the play was going to be cancelled," production assistant Elizabeth Britt said. "When we heard it was rained out at Horseshoe Bend, we were on the phones trying to find other place to see where we can have the play and we ended up at the high school."

The play was created in 2011 to help local residents understand the events before the removal of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. The Friends of Tuckabatchee wanted to show the history of Tallassee and the events that helped shape its history.

"We needed to show everyone the importance that the Muscogee (Creek) Nation had here in Tallassee and we wanted to recognize the history here," production director Jeanna Kervin said.

Kervin was amazed at the time, effort and preparation the actors put into their roles.

"We get better at every performance," Kervin said.

Kervin spoke about the research they did for the production and explained that they welcome input on how to improve it.

"We keep education in the back of our minds," Kervin said. "We did extensive research for this play but we are always learning. One of the citizens explained to us a certain way you walk in when you are going to dance at the ceremonial grounds. We did not know this but we are more than happy he explained it to us."

Kervin had some final thoughts.

"We want it to be right. We do not want to offend; so we were happy the citizens got to see it, offer feedback and not throw anything at us." laughed Kervin. "We are very grateful the Muscogee (Creek) Nation was here and let us perform for them.

Attendees reflect on Horseshoe Bend commemoration



MNN/Jessica McBride

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Jimmy Deere participates in the war whooping ceremony March 27 at the Bicentennial Commemoration for the Battle of Horseshoe Bend at the Horseshoe Bend National Military Park in Daviston, Ala.

Event creates emotional response

Jessica McBride/*MNN Reporter*

DAVISTON, Ala. — The spring air was crisp during the Bicentennial Commemoration for the Battle of Horseshoe Bend March 27 at the Horseshoe Bend National Military Park.

Participants and observers joined in the memorial to those who lost their lives during the conflict.

Emotions were high as individuals reflected on the historical events that occurred 200 years ago.

Descendants of those who served in the U.S. military pondered the events of March 27, 1814.

"I think what we are observing is a time in history to reflect back and look at how far we have come and that now we can be at peace," Martha Ann Whitt, a member of the U.S. Daughters of 1812 said. "…I look at things that happened and how history was at that time and I can understand both sides… You're fighting for what you believe is right; whether it is or isn't."

Author and orator John Burton emphasized that the Muscogee (Creek) Red Stick warriors should be remembered for the reason they fought.

"Be happy that they had the nerve and will to fight for their families… they stood up for what they believed was right and gave their lives for it," Burton said.

Other individuals relayed the importance of teaching this part of history to generations to come.

"Most students today, this is so far removed from them that it's not like it really happened," Mark Kalkbrenner, Tennessee Militia re-enactment group member said. "It's important for them to remember that it happened… the dark sides of what have gone on in our country and just mistakes that we don't need to repeat."

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Danny Wisner said that even though the Red Sticks lost the battle, he appreciated the respect shown to the warriors.

"It's an honor to have this event happen… we still are strong and that we are very much alive and that our people fought Andrew Jackson; and we were defeated like the Chief said but our hearts are still here," Wisner said.

Part of the commemoration included a war whooping ceremony, where Muscogee (Creek) citizen Jimmy Deere said he could feel the spirit as he participated.

"Well, after doing that screaming and hollering, I almost didn't finish the last part.

"The fourth one, when I was kind of like screaming, I got emotional and it just… I felt something and just couldn't help myself," Deere said.

A wide range of emotions filled each individual; including Muscogee (Creek) Interim Director of the Museum, Cultural Center and Archives Justin Giles.

"For me personally, I went from everything from anger, verging on hatred… sadness… but what overrid all that was a humble pride," Giles said. "We have to continue to maintain that same warrior mentality of protection."

Augusta Smith, a member of the Native Praise Choir that travelled to the commemoration said that visiting Alabama created a hunger to learn more about her ancestors.

"It's made us all want to go back home and search; and learn more of ourselves," Smith said. "Many of us were able to go and see the places that were of our beginnings."

Raymond Meely, Mekko of Arbeka Ceremonial Ground felt a sense of pride from the commemoration and his returning to the MCN homelands.

"The pride that we came back to where our ancestors were; to where they died; to what they believed in; to what they fought for… a sense of pride that we're still here," Meely said.

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Continued from Page 1

MCN Native Praise Singers.

During the commemoration, MCN Principal Chief George Tiger read a proclamation in honor of the day.

"As we're getting ready for seasonal ceremonial grounds and churches get ready for the summer season; we see the parallel brought to Oklahoma from the motherlands here. I don't believe we'll ever lose those.

"We'll never lose the culture and tradition that has been handed down for generations. As I look back today, I truly feel those spirits of those Red Sticks stand with me. As I stand here, the spirit of those who fought so hard are still here," Tiger said.

U.S. House of Representatives Third District of Alabama Field Rep. Cheryl Cunningham presented a proclamation of the U.S. Congressional Record to the park in honor of the event.

The Keynote Speaker for the ceremony was Hollifield Professor of Southern History Kathryn Braund from Auburn University. Braund also spoke in Okmulgee, Okla., during the MCN Muskogean Symposium March 5-7.

The commemoration events were held March 27–29 and included a ceremony involving the placement of luminaries across the battlefield, which represented the lives lost during the battle and the historical play, 'Tecumseh at Tuckabatchee.'

The MCN also had a number of citizens from ceremonial grounds that performed a public stompdance for attendees.

Creek, Cherokee and U.S. Military demonstration camps were held March 29 during the event. The Red Sticks consisted of Upper Creek forces while Jackson's mounted infantry were allied with a group of Lower Creeks and Cherokee.

A number of Muscogee (Creek) elders were able to attend the event as a part of a group of 120 citizens who were sponsored by the MCN to participate in the trip.

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Sam Proctor said he has had the honor to return to the homelands a couple of times and shared the importance of such a journey.

"I would like more than anything for the young people not to forget or lose their culture; or give up their culture and tradition because that is their identity," Proctor said. "If you don't have that what would we be? So I sort of stress that to the youth."

MCN Senior Miss Sue Morgan also attended the event and shared her thoughts about the experience.

"It's a privilege to be able to be amongst our people," Morgan said. "It's always good to be amongst our own in a society. We live among other people and they don't know our songs. That is what is so wonderful about it; we can all get together and sing."

Members of the National Society United States Daughters of 1812 were present and gave their perspective of the event.

"We're observant of a time of history to reflect back; to look back at how far we have come," Martha Ann Whitt said. "Now we can be at peace and that's the most important thing. We came a long way and have a long way to come. It has been a journey and it is still a journey."

MFSI traditional foods class prepares cvtvhakv, pvrko-afke



MNN/Amanda Rutland

Muscogee (Creek) elder Mary Watashe demonstrates how to make grape dumplings March 22 during the Mvskoke Food Sovereignty Initiative monthly community class at the MFSI office in downtown Okmulgee, Okla.

Blue bread session sees record turn-out

Amanda Rutland/*Media Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — People crammed shoulder to shoulder like canned biscuits into the back of the Mvskoke Food Sovereignty Initiative building.

It was a contradictory sight compared to the empty streets of the square March 22 in downtown Okmulgee. The crowd surrounded the fold out table, which was utilized as a cooking surface for the MFSI blue bread (cvtvhakv) and grape dumpling (pvrko-afke) class.

Soft-spoken staff member Dicey Barnett presented the blue bread demonstration.

Participants were invited to the table to form the dough balls. She answered questions as audience members shared stories of how family members used to make blue bread.

Many questions pertained to the 'bluing' used to color the bread. Barnett explained that the color comes from the hulls of purple hull peas. The hulls are dried and burned to ashes, which creates the hue.

"You have to make sure they are clean and don't have any dirt on them or it will get on your food," Barnett said.

Barnett commented she used masa in her recipe which is a corn flour found in Mexican dishes, as an alternative to grinding corn.

The traditional making of blue bread starts with growing the corn; then the kernels are soaked, ground and sifted. After this the remnants are pounded.

A keco and kecvpe are used to grind and pound the kernels. A keco is a mortar fashioned from a hallowed tree trunk and a kecvpe is the pounding stick.

"We all take short cuts anymore and let somebody else do the work. So, we don't do it traditionally," Barnett said. "I don't think my mom made it very much but she was so busy doing other things; trying to feed her family."

After a short intermission, Muscogee (Creek) elder Mary Watashe demonstrated the grape dumpling cooking process.

She recalled a fond memory of learning to make grape dumplings. Forty years earlier, Watashe was asked by friend Addie George to help her sell grape dumplings during a trip. She made them as they were being sold.

"I learned in my 50s. That has been several, several years ago," Watashe said.

Now, Watashe just cooks them for her family and for her local community center events. Grape dumplings only require three ingredients: flour, a small amount of sugar and grape juice.

She poured the juice into the flour to make dough and then placed them in a pot of boiling grape juice to let them cook. She said to sweeten the dough to taste, and used Splenda in her recipe.

When asked about measurements, she said she doesn't use them.

"I just pour mine in there and make a dough; no measuring, just pour it," Watashe said. "Just put you some grape juice and pour it in your pot; and make your dough. And start slapping it in there."

Blue Bread/Cvtvhakv

Mesa cornmeal — 4 cups
Bluing — 2-3 level tsps.
Safke lye — l-2 tsp.
Warm water — 4 cups

- Have water (112 to 1 gal.) heating to boil.
- Mix bluing into cornmeal, then add warm water (1 cup at a time) with the lye added to it.
- Then form dough a little bigger than golf ball size or larger and flatten a little. Place carefully in boiling water until cooked, about 45 min. - 1 hr. Stir once in a while.
- You can also add brown beans or sweet potatoes to the dough before cooking. Serves 20.
- One source uses white cornmeal with a little flour to hold it together in place of Mesa cornmeal.



MCN, Okmulgee join Light it Up Blue campaign



MNN/Chelsie Rich

Leaders, community members and Muscogee (Creek) citizens made the walk for autism awareness to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Council House where a proclamation declaring April 2 as Autism Awareness Day at MCN was read by MCN Principal Chief George Tiger.

Okmulgee mayor, Tiger proclaim Autism Awareness Day

Kyla McKown/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The most recent statistics on Autism Spectrum Disorder show that one in 68 children will be identified with ASD, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's website: www.cdc.gov.

According to a CDC report from 2012, the number of Autism cases had increased by roughly 30 percent from 2008.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger joined Okmulgee Mayor Steven Baldridge in proclaiming April 2 World Autism Awareness Day during an event put on by MCN departments and community advocates to participate in the Light It Up Blue campaign.

"There is no need for a cure. Just change the way the world views them. They are gifts from God."

– Christy Smith
Native parent of a child with Autism

The event kicked off with Baldrige reading the proclamation for the City of Okmulgee at the Okmulgee City Hall. Then, event participants and coordinators made the walk for autism to the MCN Council House where Tiger read a proclamation for the MCN and the Council House was lit blue in honor of the event.

The event also featured speakers and activists, including: Muscogee (Creek) citizen and mother of a child with autism, Dawn Butler, Native parent of child with autism, Christy Smith and Okmulgee community member Vickie Jones; who is the grandmother of a child with AS D.

Tiger's proclamation stated: "Whereas, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, is spearheading awareness effort in order to educate parents, professionals and the general public about autism and its effects;" Tiger said, "it is our duty as Muscogee people to look out for the individuals of our communities and tribal citizens in educating ourselves and others on the effects of autism."

This is the second year the Nation has hosted an Autism Awareness Day event, both of which were spurred by Tiger's initiative to raise awareness within the tribe.

"It came about from Chief Tiger's initiative to spread awareness about autism; even though the Nation doesn't have a program dedicated to autism," Cherrah Giles, MCN Community and Human Services Secretary said. "We definitely want citizens and our providers to be able to identify signs to make sure they're referring appropriately."

Giles said the goal of the event is to spread awareness and facts about autism and help with research.

"As far as funding, the need is so great for research, for services and that's a nice opportunity to contribute on behalf of family members," Giles said. "So they can continue to get services and do research on autism because it's still so fairly new; as far as diagnosis and services."

The event offered a chance for citizens and community members to hear the stories of three women who have a loved one diagnosed with ASD.

Butler shared her story of her son who is now 17-years-old. He was diagnosed with ASD at the age of two.

"It has been a struggle," Butler said.

Jones expressed her love for her grandson who has ASD, and explained why it is important to share the facts about autism.

"It was one in 150," Jones said. "Now it's one in 68. Wake up and bring awareness. Just please understand them and don't label."

Smith played a large role in organizing the Light It Up Blue campaign and event and shared her story about her son.

She said her son was diagnosed at age four after teachers stressed that he had behavioral issue and needed to be homeschooled. Smith refused this advice.

"There is no need for a cure," Smith said. "Just change the way the world views them. They are gifts from God. Anyone who has been around a child with autism, you've been truly blessed."

Smith also encouraged guests to advocate and reach out to school boards and school systems to improve the knowledge of autism in educators.

For more information about ASD and ways to help with research, visit: www.okautism.org or www.autismspeaks.org.

If you believe a loved one may have symptoms of ASD, call the MCN Department of Health's Behavioral Health and Substance Abuse Services at: 918-758-1910 or 888-756-4333.

Advocate works to solve problems for MCNDH patients



Mvskoke Media/Gary Fife
Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health Patient Advocate Robyn Yearby helps MCNDH patients by serving as a conduit for information between the department and its patients.

Position provides answers to health system problems

Gary Fife/*Radio Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — When a Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health patient runs into a problem, where can they go?

MCNDH has an answer, Patient Advocate Coordinator Robyn Yearby.

It's Yearby's job to tackle service issues that patients may have by assisting them to find solutions; or help them understand how the health systems works and affects their particular case.

"I'm pretty much the liaison between the patients and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health," Yearby said. "They call me if they need any assistance going through the system, any compliments, any complaints; they contact me and I assist them."

That task is very challenging because it encompasses all tribal health units and other associated departments.

"I will assist in behavioral health, the tobacco program, the rehab; anything that falls under the Department of Health. If they call me with anything about the Muscogee (Creek) Nation; I will still try to help them."

Such a job at most city or state governments would be titled, 'ombudsman;' a staff member charged with responding to public comments, complaints or compliments.

Yearby said the positions are quite similar.

"I would say, they're about the same. What I feel like my role is to pretty much be there to help them with whatever they may need," she said.

In the course of her duties, the bulk of requests come from people unfamiliar with MCNDH policies and resources.

"It seems like most of them just need guidance through it. Once they know how the process works, then they may have a better understanding of why it may take a little longer or why they can't get services immediately.

"Most of them, once they understand there is a process the department of health has to follow, they understand. I think a lot of it is them knowing how the process works," Yearby said.

According to a department summary, the patient advocate coordinator was created in 2007 to support the MCNDH Executive Office.

The job is defined as, "empowering patients and their families as partners in their own healthcare by fostering interactive communication with the patient's team of healthcare providers such as doctors and nurses."

In the course of her day, Yearby witness the gamut of patient needs.

"So far I've seen young mothers, elderly—there's no specific age group. Like I said, it's anyone needing help going through the system."

On average, Yearby takes about 10-15 calls a day. She must respond to every call and finalize the process with a report on its conclusion.

That doesn't mean she can always make the patient happy.

"Sometimes we can't go outside of what our regulations allow us to do," she said.

Yearby will go on to help people in these situations by trying to find an alternative that may be outside the tribal health system.

In cases where MCNDH may not be able to help a patient, Yearby said they try to handle it delicately. She will work to explain any guidelines or restrictions that may prevent the department from giving assistance.

"It's not that we don't want to help them; it's just that we do have our regulations that we have to follow as well. Nobody likes being told 'no' and I don't like telling them. I just keep trying to find them alternate resources and we just kind of go from there," she said.

For example, complaints about waiting times will be followed up. After documentation, the administrator at the particular facility is made aware of the situation.

They will then examine the provider to patient ratio for that day and let the patient know what that workload situation was for that particular day.

Complaints about a facility's staff are given to that particular unit's administrator to take appropriate action, she added.

Compliments are also a part of patient feedback and she works to ensure that the proper credit is given to the proper staff member.

"Yes, we do get the glowing compliment…and I do document it and send it over to HR (Human Resources) for them to put in the providers' file," Yearby said.

MCNDH Chief Performance Officer Shoneen Alexander-Rose believes that the patient advocate position provides an important link to the MCNDH service population.

"That is the overall purpose of the position; it is to work with the patients and empower them to get involved in their own care and sometimes that is just answering questions and providing information that makes them better informed.

"She really does help them navigate the system," Alexander-Rose said.

Alexander-Rose concluded that the patient advocate gives the department a human connection with their patients and lets them know that the staff is concerned about their care.

"I think the Department of Health overall is very pleased and appreciates the information and the position of the patient advocate because it is a 'face' to the patient," Alexander Rose said.

Fitness challenge encourages MCN employees to get healthy



MNN/Chelsie Rich
The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Public Relations Office is hosting a weight loss competition to challenge MCN employees to live a healthier life.

Public Relations hosts biggest loser competition

Chelsie Rich/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Public Relations Office is hosting a weight loss competition to challenge MCN employees to live a healthier life.

"This is our first time to do a biggest loser challenge," LuAnn Bear, MCN Public Relations Administrative Assistant said.

"It's not a diet; it's a lifestyle change,"

— 'Muscogee Nation News' Reporter Darren DeLaune

The competition started Feb. 7 and will last until May 2.

There will be five winners over the three month period, one winner for the first month, then a male and female winner the second and third months.

Each participant paid $20 to enter the competition and a total of 47 participants joined the challenge Feb. 7 as they weighed in for the first time.

The money collected from the entry fee will be divided between winners.

The participants are required to weigh in once a month and the person who lost the largest percent of their body mass index will be the winner.

BMI is a measurement for human body shape based on an individual's mass and height.

"I called the health side of MCN for any direction and how to help us do percentages and give us some tips on nutrition and exercise," Bear said.

Representatives from the MCN Department of Health have also given advice to participants for the competition.

The MCN Family Violence Prevention Program donated gym bags with portion plates, exercise bands and water bottles.

"We really appreciate all those people helping us out too. There's a lot of people boosting us one way or another," Bear said.

'Muscogee Nation News' Reporter, Darren DeLaune won the first month by losing 10 percent BMI.

"It's a challenge; so everybody has to challenge themselves to try and do it. You're competing against other people; so it makes it more fun," DeLaune said.

To win, DeLaune did cardio workouts, started eating healthy and drank nothing but water.

"Good luck to everybody…its not a diet; it's a lifestyle change," said DeLaune.

A portion of the money collected will also be donated to Murrow Indian Children's Home.

The mission of the Murrow Indian Children's Home is to provide a safe, nurturing environment, spiritual foundation, and cultural experience to Native American Children in crisis




Censored
GRILLZ gone WILD
GRILLZ GRILLZ GRILLZ
Saturday April 5
NOON - 8:00PM
$5 Match Play. One (1) $100 Free Play Hot Seat prize drawings every 15 minutes from NOON - 8:00PM. One (1) $1,000 Cash + gas grill Hot Seat prize drawings every hour from NOON - 8:00PM.
Diamond Club members can enjoy complimentary TNK award winning barbecue lunch from 11:00AM until supplies last.

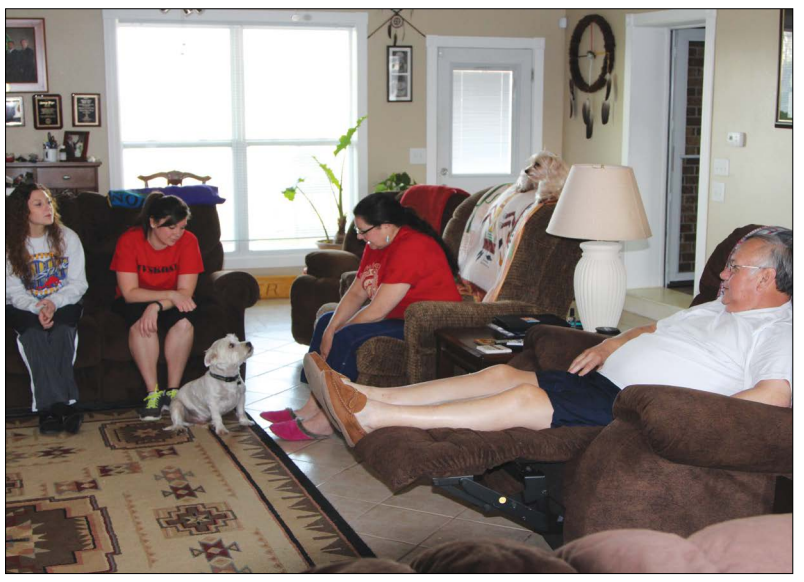

Tax BREAK SPECIAL
Saturday April 12
NOON - 8:00PM
$5 Match Play. One (1) $100 Free Play Hot Seat prize drawings every 15 minutes from NOON - 8:00PM. One (1) $1,000 Cash Hot Seat prize drawings every hour from NOON - 8:00PM.


BUNNY MONEY
Saturday April 19
NOON - 8:00PM
$5 Match Play. One (1) $100 Free Play Hot Seat prize drawings every 15 minutes from NOON - 8:00PM. One (1) $1,000 Cash Hot Seat prize drawings every hour from NOON - 8:00PM.


11TH TRAVEL PLAZA Anniversary
Saturday April 26
NOON - 8:00PM
(Main Casino and Travel Plaza)
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A day in the life of Chief Tiger: part 2



MNN/Darren DeLaune
Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger and his family enjoy an evening at home together. L to r: Clarissa Wiley, Kendra Root, Hvtke (their dog white), First Lady Frances Tiger, Cesse (their dog mouse) and Chief Tiger.

An evening with Tiger and family

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

BRISTOW, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger arrives home at about 7:30 p.m. As soon as we walk in it is no longer, "Chief" or "Mekko," but it is "George," "Pops," and his wife's names "Doll," "Lovie" and when the grandchildren come by, "Pucv" (grandfather).

At home to meet him is daughter, Kendra, and the family's three dogs "Hvtke," (white) "Cesse" (mouse) and "Molly." Tiger sits in his recliner and talks about what he does to de-stress from the day's activities.

"If there is a game on; we are watching that," Tiger said. "Frances (Tiger's wife) and I share the same interests for sports and that is what usually helps me to calm down from the day."

Tonight the family watches the Winter Olympics in Sochi and Hvtke doing tricks.

About 10 minutes later, Frances Tiger walks in after her day at work. Tonight's dinner is BBQ chicken breast, sweet potatoes and steamed vegetables.

After dinner, Frances and daughter Kendra Root talk about their lives since Tiger has been in office.

"For us, like George; we have to have broad shoulders," Frances said. "The issues that George has to listen to; whether they are personal or not, we endure them because we are family and this is our Nation too. That can be tough at times."

Kendra added, "There are times when 'Pops' is tired from the day. You can tell that in his face but he will not admit it. He wants to hear what is going on with us and how we are doing. That is the kind of person that he is."

A family rule in the house is that they cannot talk about each other's jobs. That has to stay at work. The family can talk about the Nation as a whole but each job cannot be talked about.

"We leave our job's there; at the job," Tiger said. "Home is home."

Tiger's day will end about 11 p.m. No more strategizing, it is time for rest. A new day will begin soon.

Remembered

Continued from Page 1

the main battle site.

Eventually, many of the remaining foot soldiers in Coffee's outfit followed the Cherokee and crossed the river. Jackson realized that his forces were successful in crossing the river after hearing the gunshots fired by the foot soldiers attacking Tohopeka and decided to storm the log wall on his end.

According to www.nps.gov/hobe/historyculture/index.htm, by the end of the battle, at least 800 Red Stick warriors were killed. Losses on the U.S. side numbered 49, with many wounded.

"The battle was hard fought… it was the largest loss of Native life of any battle with the United States military," Horseshoe Bend National Military Park Superintendent Doyle Sapp said.

The Battle of Horseshoe Bend was the final conflict of the Creek War. In the Treaty of Fort Jackson to end the war, an excess of 21 million acres of MCN land was ceded to the U.S.

The battle initiated a domino effect that propelled Jackson to fame.

"Another outcome of the battle is it catapulted Andrew Jackson to national prominence… he later became the president of the United States.

"His legacy is he was a very polarizing figure and he gave us Jacksonian democracy which was more of a open democracy than what we had but the darker side of that is he signed the Indian Removal Act, which removes all tribes east of the Mississippi to unfamiliar lands in the west," Sapp said.

For the U.S., the battle is portrayed as a victory.

The U.S. National Park Service hosted a bicentennial commemoration of the battle March 27, 2014 at Horseshoe Bend Military National Park. Giles stressed the importance of ensuring that the Mvskoke perspective was also heard during the ceremony.

"That battle is always talked about as a great U.S. victory and a great thing to solve the Indian problem; and progress was made," Giles said. "Us being a part of these events down here is to make sure that the Native voice, the stecate voice is there too because it wasn't squashed. It wasn't made extinct after that one battle; it continued on."

The 'Muscogee Nation News' would like to thank MCN Department of Cultural Preservation Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Emman Spain for his assistance with this article.

Reflections

Continued from Page 1

taken away.

There was also something to look at from this trip. No matter how much the United States took away from us by removing us from our homelands; they could not extinguish us. The Muscogee (Creek) Nation survived.

Even in foreign territory, this tribe, our tribe would not be vanquished. The MCN covers over 11 counties in Northeast Oklahoma. With over 77,000 citizens and being one of the largest tribes in the country, I would say the MCN is moving forward. We all know of the past, the hurt and pain; but we as a tribe knows that there is a great future for all of us.

This is where the words happiness, perseverance and staying strong come in to play. That is what the tribe has done. Stayed strong and persevered through anything and everything.

The homelands of our ancestors are magnificent. MCN Principal Chief George Tiger was right when, in his speech at Horseshoe Bend; he spoke about understanding why the MCN fought so hard for these lands.

What would my column be without quotes?

The first one will be from Chief William Weatherford a.k.a Red Eagle. It is what he had said to Jackson after the Battle of Horseshoe Bend.



"I can oppose you no longer. I have done you much injury. I should have done you more. My warriors are killed. I am in your power. Dispose of me as you please."

After Jackson heard this, he let Weatherford go. I still look at the quote and cannot fathom at what he had to go through from not only the battle, but having to say those words in defeat.

My next quote is from Tiger. This quote is right after he spoke at the commemoration.

"This shows our ability as a tribe to overcome adversity. To look back and see the hardship and now to look at how we prospered is only a reflection of who we are as Muscogee people."

It was an honor to be a part of the commemoration and see the sites. I hope that twice as many Muscogee (Creek) people attend the 300th commemoration.

Scholarship Opportunites

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Higher Education Scholarship Foundation Program is now accepting scholarship applications for the Fall 2014 semester.

Deadline is June 6, 2014.

Applications can be found at *creeknationfoundation.org*

For questions please call

918-732-7754



Marissa Parker

"Exercising Sovereignty and Self-Determination through Traditional Gift Giving"

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Muscogee (Creek) Nation Departments of Veterans Affairs Services Office and Health in conjunction with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center-Muskogee is hosting Enrollment Fairs for Veterans Health and Service-Connected Disability Benefits.

Eufaula Indian Health Center
800 Forest Avenue
Eufaula, OK 74432
Thursday
1 May 2014
1000 – 1400

Okmulgee Indian Health Center
1313 E. 20th Street
Okmulgee, OK 74447
Thursday
8 May 2014
1000 – 1400

Wetumka Indian Health Center
325 S. Washita Street
Wetumka, OK 74883
Tuesday
13 May 2014
1000 – 1400

Creek Nation Community Hospital
309 N. 14th Street
Okemah, OK 74859
Thursday
15 May 2014
1000 – 1400

Koweta Indian Health Facility
31870 E. Hwy 51
Coweta, OK 74429
Tuesday
20 May 2014
1000 – 1400

Sapulpa Indian Health Center
1125 E. Cleveland
Sapulpa, OK 74066
Thursday
22 May 2014
1000 – 1400

PLEASE BRING THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTATION
1.) COPY OF DD-214
2.) TRIBAL CITIZENSHIP CARD

For any questions please contact:
Ken Davis, Director, Veterans Affairs Services Office, Muscogee (Creek) Nation
P.O. Box 580, Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447 • (918) 732-7739 • kendavis@mcn-nsn.gov
or
LCDR Amy Eden, Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health
1801 E. 4th Street, Okmulgee, OK 74447 • (918) 756-4333 ext. 315 • Amy.eden@creekhealth.org

MCN Community and Tribal Events

Graduate profile deadline set for May 16

MNN/*Media Release*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The 'Muscogee Nation News' will feature 2014 Muscogee (Creek) Nation high school and college graduates in the upcoming June 1 edition of the MNN.

Graduate submissions should include full name of graduate, school, university or technical institution, parents, ceremonial ground and/or church, tribal town, clan and any awards/accomplishments (150 total word limit).

A recent digital photo should also be included with graduate's information, which must be submitted via email no later than Friday, May 16 by 5 p.m.

Submissions should be sent to MNN Editor Sterling Cosper at: scosper@mcn-nsn.gov. For more information, please call: 918-732-7697.

Jim Thorpe Games set for June 8-14

SHAWNEE, Okla. — The third annual Jim Thorpe Native American games are set for June 8-14 at different venues throughout Shawnee.

Athletes representing over 70 Indian nations, bands and tribes from across the U.S. will gather to share their talents in the spirit of the "World's Greatest Athlete" and Native American Legend, Jim Thorpe.

For more information about the games call: 405-208-9253 or info@jimthorpegames.com or visit their website at: www.jimthorpegames.com.

Indian taco sale set for April 26

SAND SPRINGS, Okla. — An Indian taco sale is set for April 26 at Wekiwa Indian Baptist Church from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. to help raise funds for the church youth group.

Plates are $8 for a taco, dessert and drink. Everyone is invited.

MCN Senior Services meeting set for May 7

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The next Muscogee (Creek) Nation Senior Services meeting is set for 10 a.m., May 7 at the MCN Elderly Nutrition Center in Okmulgee.

For more information contact Christy Carson at: 918-732-7765.

Senior Games and Symposium set for May 9

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The 2014 Muscogee (Creek) Nation Senior Games and Symposium has been set for May 9 at the MCN Omniplex in Okmulgee.

Attendees must be 55-years-old and provide their MCN citizenship card.

For more information contact Christy Carson at: 918-732-7765 or ccarson@mcn-nsn.gov.

Spring Revival set for May 19-23

SAPULPA, Okla. — A spring revival is set for 7 p.m., May 19-23 at Little Cussetah Indian Baptist Church.

Tim Coon is the featured speaker and everyone is welcome to attend.



MCN Southern Regional Office April schedule

MCN SRO/*Media Release*

WETUMKA, Okla. — The following is the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Southern Regional Office schedule for April.

April 15 - Tax Commission
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Lunch 11-11: 30 a.m.

April 18 - SRO closed for Good Friday

April 22 - Tax Commission
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Lunch 11-11: 30 a.m.

April 25 - WIC
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

April 29 - Tax Commission
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Lunch 11-11: 30 a.m.

For more information contact the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Southern Regional Office at: 405-452-1155.

SRO Employment and Training at: 405-452-1106

SRO Housing 405-452-1106

SRO Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (appointment only) at: 1-800-483-1979

SRO WIC (2nd and 4th Fridays) at: 1-800-684-2302.

Citizen awarded $5K Coca-Cola scholarship



Shutterstock

Single mother overcomes adversity for better life

Amanda Rutland/*Media Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Full-time student and single mother of three, 33 year-old Shannon Simmers said it is not easy being a single parent and that is why she is grateful for having won a $5,000 scholarship from Coca-Cola through the American Indian College Fund.

"Being a single mom you really can't depend on others to help you out," Simmers said.

Simmers choose to pursue an education to be able to provide for her children after she had a difficult time finding employment. She said she was tired of struggling.

"I just finally made my mind up that I had to go to school to further my education to make a better life for my kids," Simmers said.

To make a better life for her children, she has not only returned to school, but also left an abusing marriage. Simmers didn't want her children growing up in that type of environment.

"It took me a long time to leave him, but after I had my two sons; it was like, I just didn't want my sons growing up to be in that environment. Especially my daughter, I didn't want her growing up seeing all that," Simmers said.

Simmers is in the tribal services program at the College of the Muscogee Nation because she wants to help others.

"I just want to give back to my community, my people," Simmers said.

Simmers wanted encourage other single parents. She said not to doubt yourself, but to go for it.

IHS pushes hospitals for Baby-Friendly certification

MCN looking to offer obstetrics, gain certification

Amanda Rutland/*Media Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative is a worldwide program started by the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund to promote breastfeeding and quality healthcare in birthing hospitals and centers.



Hospitals seeking Baby-Friendly certification they must complete a four-phase program, which includes conditions such as: developing an infant feeding policy and creating programs to educate mothers both prenatal and postpartum.

All hospital practices and developed programs must adhere to the Ten Steps to Successful Breastfeeding listed at the initiative website: www.babyfriendly.org, under the ten steps tab. As of March, only one IHS facility in Oklahoma, the Claremore Indian Hospital, has received the Baby-Friendly certification.

As a component of Michelle Obama's 'Let's Move! in Indian Country' campaign aimed at reducing childhood obesity, IHS has pledged to certify all IHS hospitals as Baby-Friendly by the end of the year.

In an IHS press release on the initiative, Acting Director of IHS, Dr. Yvette Roubideaux said that IHS would benefit from the initiative.

"The IHS is committed to making all our obstetric hospitals Baby-Friendly," Roubideaux said. "We are pleased and proud that IHS hospitals are setting the standard for maternity care in so many states. Our work shows how this initiative can succeed in populations that will most benefit from the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative."

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health facilities do not currently offer obstetric services; however, MCNDH Secretary of Health LCDR Seneca Smith said that is a service MCNDH would like to offer in the future.

"There is nothing in this area so, that is something that we definitely will move forward in the future to make sure that we have that service here," Smith said.

Smith said that once obstetric services are offered, MCNDH will be pursuing the Baby-Friendly certification.

"We always try to make sure the MCN is at the table in any type of opportunities like that," Smith said, "I think anytime you can put a certification behind it; that brings credibility to the individual that is presenting the care."

A crossword puzzle from the Mvskoke Languge Preservation Program

'Tasahce Rakko' Big Spring

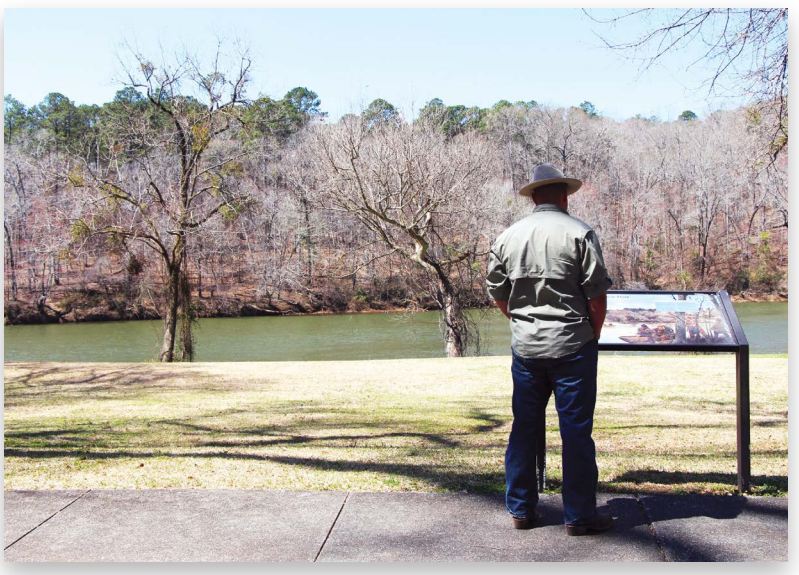
Cufe - Rabbit
Custake - Egg
Cvlahecetv - Color
Cvmpuce - Candy
Ehetv - Hide
Nak Emkv - Gifts
Pakpvkuce - Flowers
Svkopvnkv - Toys
Svmpv - Basket
Tasahe Rakko - April

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Bicentennial Commeration for the Battle of Horseshoe Bend















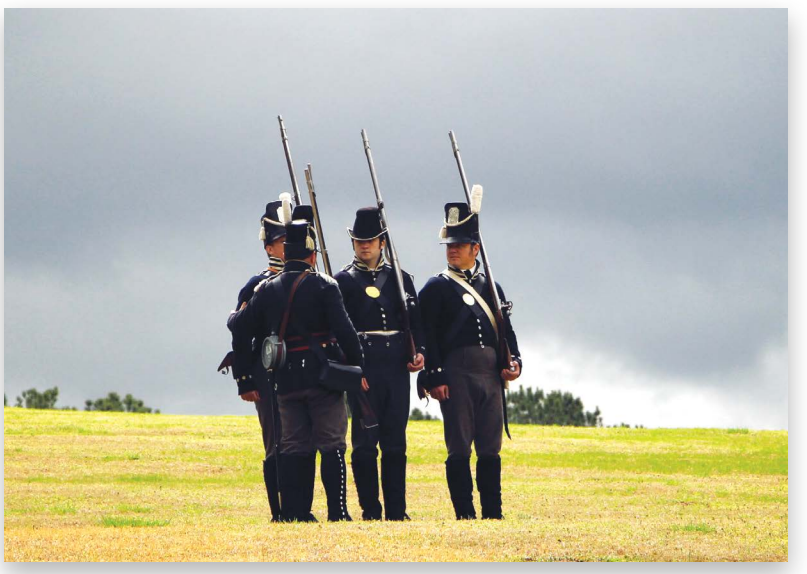







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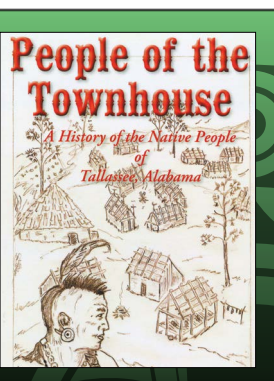




Inside the MNN:

Citizen completes book on Tallassee

Page 4



Muscogee (Creek) citizen inducted into athletic hall of fame

Page 8



Muscogee Nation News

Official publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and a production of Mvskoke Media

MCN observes Child Abuse Awareness Month

May 1, 2014
Vol. 44, Issue 9
"Ke Hvse"
Mulberry Month

Event features discussion panel, balloon release

Kyla McKown/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Child Abuse Awareness Month kicked off April 8 at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation with a discussion panel featuring MCN Children and Family Services Administration staff and a proclamation in recognition of the month from MCN Principal Chief George Tiger read by MCN National Council Speaker Thomas Yahola.

The event, held at the MCN Mound Building, was led by CFSA Tribal Treatment Specialist Amanda Thomas, who shared child abuse statistics.

"In the hour that we are here in this event, 360 cases of child abuse will be reported," Thomas said.

Although many may think of child abuse as sexual and physical, Thomas said that neglect is the most common form.

"Neglect is four times more likely to result in death or be reported than sexual and physical abuse," Thomas said.



MNN/Chelsie Rich

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Children and Family Services Administration held an event April 8 at the MCN Mound Building in observance of Child Abuse Awareness Month, which featured a balloon release to honor victims of child abuse.

The discussion panel represented different portions of MCN CFSA and explained services and programs that are available for Muscogee (Creek) families.

Robyn Wind, MCN Child Placement Specialist, emphasized the need for foster homes and adoptive families.

"We need people who want to adopt," Wind said. "It's not a hard process."

The panelists also told citizens and community members in attendance that anonymity is ensured for those who report a possible child abuse case to law enforcement or services such as MCN CFSA.

"In Oklahoma, everyone is a mandated reporter; not just doctors and officers," Cynthia Smith, Child Protective Services Supervisor said. "If you see bruises and something ends up happening; you're going to feel bad. If you have any belief call it in. It won't hurt anyone to go out for a child welfare check."

According to Thomas, CPS

Awareness - 2

Emvpanyv: 'One who tells a story'

Football foundation, Native Museum funding

Gary Fife/*Radio Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Washington R ... s owner Dan Snyder has created a foundation to assist American Indian tribes.

In a letter the team owner said the Washington R ... s Original Americans Foundation will, "provide meaningful and measurable resources that provide genuine opportunities" for Native Americans.

Suzan Shown Harjo, the Muscogee (Creek) woman who is a lead figure in the effort to make the team change its name said, "I'm glad that he's had a realization that Native Americans have it tough in the United States. All sorts of people could have told him that and have been trying to tell him that for a long time."

She said the refusal to change the name works against any positive effort the foundation money might have.

The team owner says they have about 40 projects on their list to help. He adds they already gave the Omahas some financing help for a backhoe. And ... there is the '3,000 coats' they have donated to Natives.

Could some of them be the R ... s jackets that the former chair of the Navajo Nation and some Code Talkers were wearing in a publicity photo? (He always did like the spotlight).

He is also head of the Navajo Code Talkers and said the name was OK, but the Navajo Nation Council just voted otherwise.

I did find out that the Northern Cheyenne received some of those coats for their kids.

That's OK; the welfare of those kids is a priority.

It does raise the question of principle versus reality. Tough

Emvpanyv - 9

Tiger receives 'Tribal Leader of the Year' award

Chief recognized for MCN financial advancement

MCN PR/*Edwin Marshall*

NEW ORLEANS — Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger was presented with the 'Tribal Leader of the Year' award April 15, 2014 at the 32nd Annual Native American Financial Officers Association (NAFOA) Conference in New Orleans.

The award is given in recognition of the recipient's ability to effectively lead a tribal nation and make major financial decisions. It also honors a leader who displays significant foresight and resolve in the financial advancement of his or her nation.

Bill Lomax, NAFOA President stated in his introduction at the conference, "Chief Tiger is a transformative leader. In just over two years as principal chief, he has overseen and implemented considerable advancements for his people... It is clear that the Muscogee (Creek) Nation is flourishing under Chief Tiger's leadership."



MNN/Amanda Rutland

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger was presented with the "Tribal Leader of the Year" award April 15 at the 32nd Annual Native American Financial Officers Association (NAFOA) Conference in New Orleans. Pictured is Tiger (right) receiving the award from NAFOA President Bill Lomax (left) along with members of the MCN Cabinet and NAFOA Vice President VaRene Martin.

Lomax cited several projects such as the MCN acquisition of the Okmulgee Memorial Hospital, RiverWalk development in Jenks, Okla., the Margaritaville themed expansion of River Spirit Casino and establishment of the Nation's own Community Development Financial Institution.

MCN was the recipient of the 2013 NAFOA 'Deal of the Year' award for the RiverWalk purchase.

Upon receiving the award, Tiger responded, "As Native people, we recognize that when anyone of us succeeds; we all succeed."

He also recognized the participation of the MCN National Council in supporting the Nation's success.

"I'd like to express my ap-

Award - 6

MvskokeMedia

MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

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Students perform at Oklahoma Native Youth Language Fair



MNN/Amanda Rutland

The kindergarten class from Mason Public School performs a song in the Mvskoke language April 7 during the Oklahoma Native American Youth Language Fair in Norman, Okla.

Competition helps keep languages alive

Jessica McBride*/MNN Reporter*

NORMAN, Okla. — Students competed using their knowledge of Native language at the 12th Annual Oklahoma Native American Youth Language Fair April 7-8 at the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History in Norman.

Children, pre-kindergarten–12th grade demonstrated their skills in creative categories including: spoken language, song, poetry and video. A vast array of Native languages were represented, including Mvskoke and Euchee (Yuchi).

ONAYLF creator and SNOMNH Native American Languages Curator Dr. Mary Linn said that the event had an excellent turn out.

"I think right now we have 337 kids and tomorrow with the older ages; we're going to have about 531 I think," Linn said.

Live performances were judged on the amount of language used, fluency and stage presence. Artwork and written presentations were judged before the performances and displayed during the competition.

This year, ONAYLF offered a competition category where participants created artwork similar to that found on the bottom of skateboards.

"They really took it seriously for skateboarding… That was really exciting that you could really see that kids can use their language in things they're really interested in today," Linn said.

ONAYLF was created to recognize Native language teachers and acknowledge the language skills of students.

"We just try to have a good atmosphere of celebrating languages," Linn said. "It gives a chance for the kids to showcase what they're learning."

ONAYLF judge and Chickasaw language speaker Carlin Thompson said that this event helps promote the use of Native languages.

"The languages are what identify us. We cannot have ceremonies without our language," Thompson said. "Without our language, we can't survive as a tribe. That's our way of life with our language."

MCNDH hosts Native Heroes of Hope Youth Summit



MNN/Kyla McKown

Native Heroes of Hope Youth Summit Life Skills Instructor Roy Crandell sets up a physical health game for a breakout session April 3 at the Tulsa Air and Space Museum during the summit.

Event teaches leadership skills to Native youth

Kyla McKown*/MNN Reporter*

TULSA, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health Behavioral Health Program offered a free event, which focused on leadership skills at the Tulsa Air and Space Museum April 3 to Native American students from 13 area schools.

The Oklahoma Juvenile Justice Department Program along with MCNDH entities such as the Children's Mental Health Initiative, Tribal Suicide Prevention and Youth Wellness joined together to host the third annual Native Heroes of Hope Summit.

This year's NHHS theme was "Doing good does you good," which came from a world campaign through the Mental Health Foundation at: www.mentalhealth.org.uk.

The campaign focuses on how helping others can benefit one's mental health.

"When you help others, it creates positive physiological changes in the brain associated with happiness. Helping others improves social support, encourages us to lead a more physically active lifestyle and distracts us from our own problems by allowing us to engage in a meaningful activity while improving our self-esteem, self—awareness, empathy and competence," according to the event press release.

During the summit, students divided into groups to attend each breakout session. The session topics included: Interview Skills, Leadership 101, Cultural and Identity I and II, Healthy Relationships, Life Skills and, "I'm Committed."

Natalie Barnett, MCN Behavioral Health Youth Coordinator and said the event staff had the perfect people in mind when they choose the breakout session instructors.

"Just kind of mixing and dabbling in events; you just figure out what you like and what kind of material you want to present," Barnett said.

MCNDH Social Marketer Lindsley Harry said the curriculum was developed through feedback from the Johnson O'Malley and Native American School Advocacy Programs at different schools.

"They don't get the prevention and education in the school," Harry said. "So that's something that we really focused on in the breakout sessions is the more prevention side of it."

Aside from empowering the Native youth, Barnett hoped the students would take home mental health tips and share that knowledge with friends and family.

"Awareness, staying strong in their culture; setting goals for yourself," Barnett said. "The workforce is here. Just bettering yourself and knowing what is available resource wise is important."

Barnett and Harry, who both work with children and mental health daily, said they believe that statistically; Native Americans are predisposed to behavioral health issues due to factors such as alcoholism, depression and suicide in their homes.

"By targeting Native youth, we kind of want to intervene and maybe change some family life cycles," Barnett said.

With the biggest turnout thus far, Harry said these events wouldn't be possible without the JOM and NASA programs, which are available in local schools.

For more information about children's mental and behavioral health topics and services, contact MCN Behavioral Health and Substance Abuse Services at: 918-758-1910 or 888-756-4333.

AWARENESS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

can sometimes be stigmatized because they have to take children from their homes. She stressed however, that CPS and other MCN services work to keep children in the home unless it is necessary to remove them.

"We offer the Safe and Stable Program, which provides rental assistance," Thomas said. "We do parenting classes, take cleaning supplies, bedding, clothing for the children and stuff like that. Sometimes, the little things are pick-me-ups to make things go smoother for the families."

If children are removed from a home, CPS makes sure they are placed with other Muscogee (Creek) families or at the very least, other Native homes.

The programs also work with those parents to set up a treatment plan and get them services they might need in order to get their children back.

Each year, the MCN brings anywhere from 50-100 Muscogee (Creek) children into custody and assists between 300-400 families.

Statistically, Thomas said Native Americans have higher rates of child abuse and believes that poverty is part of the reason for this.

"Most Native families have at least 50 percent in poverty and that's a huge indicator there might be abuse," Thomas said. "Not because of poverty but because of stress it leaves on parents; and the majority of Native homes are single-parent homes and that brings stress."

CFSA has on-call staff at all times and can be reached at: 918-732-7869. The MCN Lighthorse Police Department is also available and is in contact with CPS at all times.

To report child abuse or neglect, call the Oklahoma Department of Human Services Child Abuse Hotline at: 1-800-522-3511.

Graduate profile deadline set for May 16



MNN*/Media Release*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The 'Muscogee Nation News' will feature 2014 Muscogee (Creek) Nation high school and college graduates in the upcoming June 1 edition of the MNN.

Graduate submissions should include full name of graduate, school, university or technical institution, parents, ceremonial ground and/or church, tribal town, clan and any awards/accomplishments (150 total word limit).

A recent digital photo should also be included with graduate's information, which must be submitted via email no later than Friday, May 16 by 5 p.m.

Submissions should be sent to MNN Editor Sterling Cosper at: scosper@mcn-nsn.gov. For more information, please call: 918-732-7697.

Tiger named ITC president during Council quarterly meeting



MNN/Jessica McBride
Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger spoke April 11 during the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes general session at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Catoosa, Okla.

Resolutions address food, education and more

Jessica McBride/*MNN Reporter*

CATOOSA, Okla. — The Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes quarterly meeting was held April 10-11 at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Catoosa, Okla. The Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma hosted the meeting.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger spoke about MCN trip to Alabama for the Bicentennial Commemoration of the Battle of Horseshoe Bend.

"It was very emotional to many of our elders that went," Tiger said. "Our message was we may have lost a battle at the Horseshoe Bend area, but today as Mvskokvlke, as indigenous people; we're still here. We're thriving and we're prospering."

The ITC passed resolutions concerning issues, which involve the tribes and their citizens. All resolutions passed unanimously.

Resolution 14-09 supports the legislation introduced by U.S. Senator Heidi Heitkamps of North Dakota to create a commission to examine the challenges of Native children and strengthen Native communities.

Resolution 14-10 supports legislation introduced by U.S. Senator Jon Tester of Montana to create the Native Language Immersion Student Achievement Act, which would establish a grant program to fund Native language programs in schools.

Resolution 14-11 supports legislation introduced by U.S. Rep. Paul Gosar of Arizona to create the American Indian Trust Responsibility Review Act to review the trust relationship between the U.S. and Native American tribes.

Resolution 14-12 pushes for equality for tribal law enforcement.

Resolution 14-13 supports the Indian Health Service Health Professions Act, which would amend the Internal Revenue Service code to no longer include gross income received from the Indian Health Service Loan Repayment Program and the Indian Health Professions Scholarships Program.

Resolution 14-14 requests tribal consultation on the Food Safety Modernization Act that was passed in 2011. The legislation aims to change from response measures to prevention measures regarding food supply safety.

Resolution 14-15 supports the letter sent March 14 from the National Association of Food Distribution Programs on Indian Reservations to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service.

Resolution 14-16 supports the increase of Native American enrollment and funding at Bacone College in Muskogee, Okla.

Resolution 14-17 supports the exhibit, "Indians at the Post Office: Native Themes in New Deal Era Murals" by the Smithsonian National Postal Museum and Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian.

Resolution 14-18 supports the completion of the American Indian Cultural Center and Museum in Oklahoma City.

Representatives from federal agencies including IHS and the Bureau of Indian Affairs presented updates for their departments. Oklahoma Native American Program Liaison Jacque Secondine Hensley also spoke.

The ITC voted on new officers during the meeting.

Tiger will serve as ITC president until January 2015. Seminole Nation Principal Chief Leonard Harjo will serve as ITC vice-president until January 2015 and then take the reins as ITC president until January 2016.

Tiger's short term is due to the ITC moving elections to the beginning of each year.

The Chickasaw Nation will host the next ITC meeting July 10-11 at the WinStar World Casino and Resort in Thackerville, Okla.

'Sooners for N7' event teaches healthy living



MNN/Darren DeLaune
University of Oklahoma Men's Basketball Head Coach Lon Kruger spoke to participants April 9 at the inaugural 'Sooners for N7' event in Norman.

Children come out for day of fun

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

NORMAN, Okla. — Over 200 Native youth ages 10-13, represented the Muscogee (Creek), Choctaw, Chickasaw and Cherokee Nations April 9 at the inaugural 'Sooners for N7' event hosted by The University of Oklahoma Student Athlete Advisory Committee at the OU Football Practice Fields in Norman.

According to: www.n7fund.com, in 2000, Nike developed N7 to help out Native American tribes by promoting healthy living. The division is inspired by the Native American wisdom of the seven generations, which states that if something impacts one generation; it will affect the next seven.

Planning for the event, which was presented by OU SAAC Community Liaison Whitney Wofford, began in the fall of 2013.

"Oklahoma has one of the largest, if not the largest Native American population in the United States," Wofford said. "We felt we needed to give back to these kids who came out here today and show and teach the things that will help them with healthy lifestyles."

Different activities were held for the children in attendance, including: jump rope, soccer, hula-hoop, stickball and track and field. Nutrition was also discussed with the participants.

Student athletes representing various sports were on hand to help the children at the activity stations.

"We wanted to have an event like this for everyone," OU Senior Associate Athletic Director Nikki Moore said. "Children love to play outside and play sports; so we wanted our student athletes out here to be able to talk to them about being active, having fun and being healthy."

OU Men's Basketball Head Coach Lon Kruger was on hand to speak to the children before the activities.

"Our student athletes are here today because they work really, really hard," Kruger said. "They are the best at preparing for their classes and at preparing for their respective sports. What a better way to show the young ones the right way to do things than by being here and setting good examples."

Moore believed the event was a success.

"I think our inaugural event turned out to be a great one," Moore said. "We are hoping next year's event will be better and bigger than this one."



Organization reaches out to Native women leaders



Submission
Jonnie Joe, a Shawl Circle member and Mothers Against Mommies Alone Knows Inc. volunteer, wears her specially designed program shawl.

Program strives to educate Native women about sexual health

Kyla McKown/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Founded in 2007 by Choctaw single mother Kayla Walker-Heltzel, Mothers Against Mommies Alone Knows Inc. has offered free HIV testing as well as reproductive and sexual health education to Native Americans ever since.

This curriculum includes education on women's health issues such as cervical and breast cancer as well as sexually transmitted diseases.

The nonprofit organization based out of Ardmore, Okla., started out as a parenting support group and quickly saw the need for programs and services regarding HIV awareness and education in the community.

Seminole Nation citizen, Winter-Star Postoak, who is also Muscogee (Creek) and Oglala Lakota, joined Walker-Heltzel in summer of 2013 as programs assistant. The two Native women have worked as a duo over the past year to share these programs with other women within their tribes.

One of those programs is the Shawl Circle-Hoktvke Yekce, which means strong women.

Walker-Heltzel came across the program from her research on sexual health education for Native Americans.

The Florida State Department of Health and the Seminole Tribe of Florida created the program after seeing lack of education regarding sexual health in Native American culture.

"They were finding out Seminole people were really weary of going to the doctor," Postoak said. "The information they had concerning health issues was incorrect. They were looking for a way to reach Native women to give information they needed to take control of their health."

The Shawl Circle program is offered about four times a year and is lead by a group of 4-10 women who are strong leaders within their community or tribe.

"This project brings together respected women from tribes, bands and clans to provide them with the education and materials needed to present the information in the correct cultural and traditional context for their community," according to the Shawl Circle press release.

Postoak said the need for sexual health education in Native American communities is high. Specifically because of the role many Native women play within their culture, which most of the time means taking care of the family.

She said it is important for the women to take care of themselves before they can take care of others.

"Some Native Americans are weary to go to Indian Health Services because they might know people who work there," Postoak said. "A lot of grown women have incorrect information and we want them to take care of themselves in the best way they can."

The classes offer a set curriculum for the women to take back with them. After a post-test, the women are awarded with a specially designed shawl.

"It serves as a visual reminder of the information they've learned and information they have to empower themselves, their nieces, daughters and loved ones; and it can serve as an icebreaker," Postoak said.

Shawl Circle programs are offered throughout the year. However, MAMA Knows Inc. is offering a "Train the Trainer" class April 10-11, which will allow other women to teach the Shawl Circle curriculum just as Walker-Heltzel does.

"It's usually a circle with citizens in communities," Postoak said. "This time we've branched out and contacted tribes and their health departments. So they can take the Shawl Circle and adapt it a little to their own tribal customs and get this health information out."

For more information about MAMA Knows Inc. and the programs, call: 580-226-4238 or visit: www.mamaknowsinc.org.

Eufaula Dorm holds annual art auction



MNN/Amanda Rutland
Eufaula Dormitory students decorate the sidewalk April 10 for The Lighting Exhibit: Our Emotions Divided art auction.

Students exhibit art expression paintings for auction

Amanda Rutland/*Media Specialist*

EUFAULA, Okla. — The Eufaula Dormitory held its annual art auction April 10 titled 'The Lighting Exhibit: Our Emotions Divided.' Pieces from the auction were products of art expression and the only requirement for participating students was that they had to incorporate lighting into the paintings.

Registered and board certified art therapist Gayla Norman said the auction was a reward for students. Norman's program is one of the few Native American art therapy programs in the country.

The proceeds from the auction went directly to the students.

One of the changes in the auction this year was that each piece was numbered and anonymous.

"We are doing it a little bit different this year because we would put the numbers last year," Norman said. "All the kids would come and, 'buy mine, buy mine, buy mine,' you know; and it wasn't necessarily fair to the other kids."

Senior Dallian Thunder Bull said she likes having the show because it allows students to showcase their creativity.

Fellow senior Angelica Butler who has been a student at the Eufaula Dormitory for 13 years said that her painting was about happiness.

"I mean purple is for sad and pink and white; and it's for happy. I just think everyone should be happy," Butler said.

Norman stressed that the paintings were not about the final product but about the creative process as a whole.

"I tell the kids, 'It could sell and it could not sell. And if you don't want to sell yours; that is totally OK too, ' " Norman said.

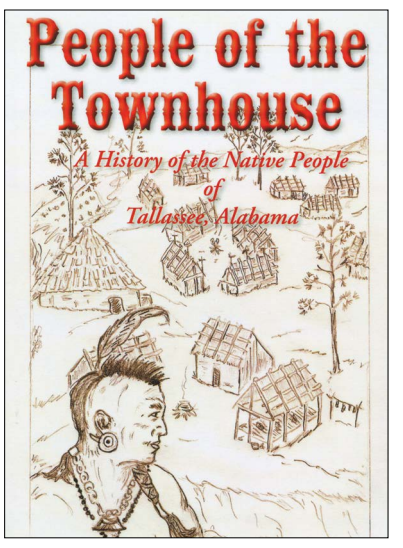
Citizen completes book on Tallassee

Author discusses 30 years of research to complete dream

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

TALLASSEE, Ala. — Debra Hughey has always loved history. Especially, the history that helped shape her home in Tallassee.

Hughey's passion for history and the Muscogee (Creek) people that lived in the area inspired her to write a book called 'People of the Townhouse.' Her own Muscogee (Creek) heritage has helped keep that passion growing.



From a young age, she has been devoted to learning new things about the inhabitants who originally lived in Tallassee.

"My passion, to find out about the Muscogee (Creek) that used to occupy the lands here began when I was about three years old," Hughey said.

She wanted to read as many books a possible to keep this interest in history growing.

"Any book that they had on Tallassee, I wanted to read about it," Hughey said.

What she has learned from books inspired her to want to write one herself.

"I told myself that I would write a book someday about the history here," she said. "My husband (Randall) and a lot of our friends encouraged me."

Hughey gave a simple explanation as to why she wrote 'Townhouse.'

"It is who I am," Hughey said. "This is simply me. I am Muscogee by blood and by spirit."

Her book covers the Paleo, Archaic, Woodland and Mississippian people who originally occupied Tallassee and follows those time periods all the way to when the Muscogee people were removed from the area.

"I told myself that my book had to have a beginning and an end," Hughey said. "My beginning is when they first came and dwelled here and my ending is when they left here."

The research for this project took about 30 years. All the books she acquired over that period culminated into an extensive library.

Hughey has received high compliments for her work.

"I have had people tell me that it is one of the most complete and comprehensive book ever written about the history here," Hughey said.

She is overjoyed with the completion of 'Townhouse.'

"This book is like completing a dream," Hughey said. "When I first saw the book, I looked at it and said, 'Whoa, I really did it.' "

She is not done with her love of reading or writing. Hughey has a second book that is almost completed and she hopes to be done very soon.

"My next book is a novel," she said. "A lot of research is going into this book too."

To purchase her book visit: www.scuppernongpress.com/Scuppernong_Press/Publications.html.

Hughey (Muscogee (Creek)/Cherokee) lives with her husband Randall in Tallassee. They are co-owners of WACQ Radio 580AM and 101.1FM, Tallassee.

MCN holds Week of the Young Child Parade



MNN/Chelsie Rich
OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Child Development Centers kicked off the 2014 Week of the Young Child April 7 with a parade in downtown Okmulgee and a fun fair at the MCN Tribal Complex. The children also tied blue ribbons to the fence at the MCN Council House to show support for Child Abuse Awareness Month.


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Tiger proclaims April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month



MNN/Chelsie Rich

Muscogee (Creek) Nation citizens and employees join the Warriors Honor Women advocacy group for an Honor Walk April 17 at the MCN Tribal Complex in observance of vicitims of sexual assault.

Event features walk to honor victims

Kyla McKown/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Family Violence Prevention Program and the Warriors Honor Women advocacy group held a sexual assault awareness event April 17 in observance of National Sexual Assault Awareness Month in April.

The event, which was held at the MCN Mound Building, included guest speaker Jeffrey Bucholtz from the advocacy group 'We End Violence.'

An Honor Walk followed the presentation in observance of victims of sexual assault, as well as a reading of anonymous sexual assault victim stories by Warriors Honor Women.

MCN Principal Chief George Tiger proclaimed April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month for the Nation in an effort to mitigate the issue within MCN.

The proclamation read, "Whereas the Muscogee (Creek) Nation strongly supports the efforts of tribal, national, state and local partners, and every citizen, to actively engage in public and private efforts to prevent sexual violence. It's time for all of us to start conversations, take appropriate action and support one another to create a safer environment for all."

MCN National Council Rep. Frank Coachman is also a part of the Warriors Honor Women group and addressed the issue.

"Sexual assault is something here and we need to correct it the best way we can," Coachman said. "And everyone in the tribe should do their part."

According to FVPP, "Sexual violence occurs anytime a person is forced, coerced or manipulated into unwanted sexual activity."

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention states that the majority of rape and sexual assault victims are between the ages of 16-24 with 80 percent of female victims raped before the age of 25.

FVPP Manager Shawn Partridge said that the program has been able to add a number of services to citizens, including help for families with children impacted by sexual violence.

"Sexual assault is something here and we need to correct it the best way we can. And everyone in the tribe should do their part."

— MCN National Council Rep. Frank Coachman

"Our reports are still limited because we know when it comes to reporting and having to take that step; it's not an easy step," Partridge said. "If you need to speak to anyone; staff is here."

In the past year, FVPP has had success incarcerating five of the six sexual violence cases involving children with two of those cases now serving life-sentences. The sixth case is pending.

However, Partridge and the rest of the FVPP staff wants to continue to help sexual assault victims.

Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town Mekko Bobby Yargee, shared a similar goal.

"We're trying to stop that today," Yargee said. "That's why I got involved with Warriors Honor Women. These are very precious women. Without the ladies, we couldn't survive as a tribe."

For more information or to report sexual assault, contact FVPP at: 918-732-7869.

Award

Continued from Page 1

preciation for our National Council for its support," Tiger said. "This was a joint effort that would not have been possible without the support of our tribal legislature. I accept this award for those we serve – the Mvskoke people."

Other awardees included:

- Education Program of the Year - Our Native American Business and Enterprise Network (ONABEN)
- Deal of the Year - Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
- Deal of the Year - Tribal-State Agreements: Oneida Indian Nation, Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe and Seneca Nation of Indians
- Executive of the Year - Lacey Horn, Cherokee Nation

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

DISTRICT COURT
FILED
2014 APR 4 AM 9 40
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
DONNA BEAVER
COURT CLERK

In the Matter of the Guardianship of the Person and Estate of: K.R.T.

A Minor Child.

Case No. GD 2014-04

SERVICE OF SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION NOTICE

To: Darrell Tarpalchee

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued for guardianship of the Minor Child in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, GD 2014-04, styled In the Matter of the Guardianship of the Person and Estate of: K.R.T., minor children. The action alleges that the petitioners are entitled to a Final Decree of Guardianship over the minor child.

You are notified that you must answer the *Petition* filed by the petitioner or appear on the 13 day of June, 2014, at 9:00 o'clock a.m. or the allegations contained in the *Petition* will be taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of petitioner as prayed for in their *Petition*.

Given under my hand and seal this 4th day of April, 2014.

Donna Beaver, Court Clerk
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court,
Okmulgee District

By: Stephanie Bear (Deputy)

Approved:

Courtney L. Eagan-Smith, MCN#543
McKenna & Prescott
114 N. Grand Ave, North Lobby
Okmulgee, OK 74447
(918) 756-1112 Telephone
(918) 756-1113 Facsimile
Attorney for Petitioners

Scholarship Opportunites

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Higher Education Scholarship Foundation Program is now accepting scholarship applications for the Fall 2014 semester.

Deadline is June 6, 2014.

Applications can be found at *creeknationfoundation.org*

For questions please call

918-732-7754



Marissa Parker

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MCN National Council representative features: David Hill



MNN File Photo
David Hill, reelected Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Creek District Seat A representative.

Hill aims to help MCN through economic development

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla — At the beginning of his second session with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council, Creek District Seat A Rep. David Hill is ready for the challenges that come with his position.

Prior to working on the Council, Hill got his start in politics when he was on the school board for Depew Public Schools in Depew, Okla. Afterwards, he started going to Bristow Indian Community where he became part of the business board.

"Before all of this, I was never into politics," Hill said. "I pretty much learned as I went when I started on the school board and after the business board."

Hill is sergeant-at-arms for this Council session. One of the jobs associated with the position is coordinating with the speaker to make sure everything is ready for the meetings.

"I am helping to make sure meetings are conducted the way they should be and going smooth," Hill said.

Hill spoke about how he enjoys helping all the citizens now, not just those in his district. He explained that different areas throughout the MCN face different situations.

"It is a great feeling helping out everyone in our jurisdiction," Hill said. "Even at the times when it was only district; citizens would call and want to talk with me or need assistance. If I did not have an answer for them; I would find out the answer immediately and help out in anyway I can."

Hill's goal is to help tribal citizens through the economic development of the MCN.

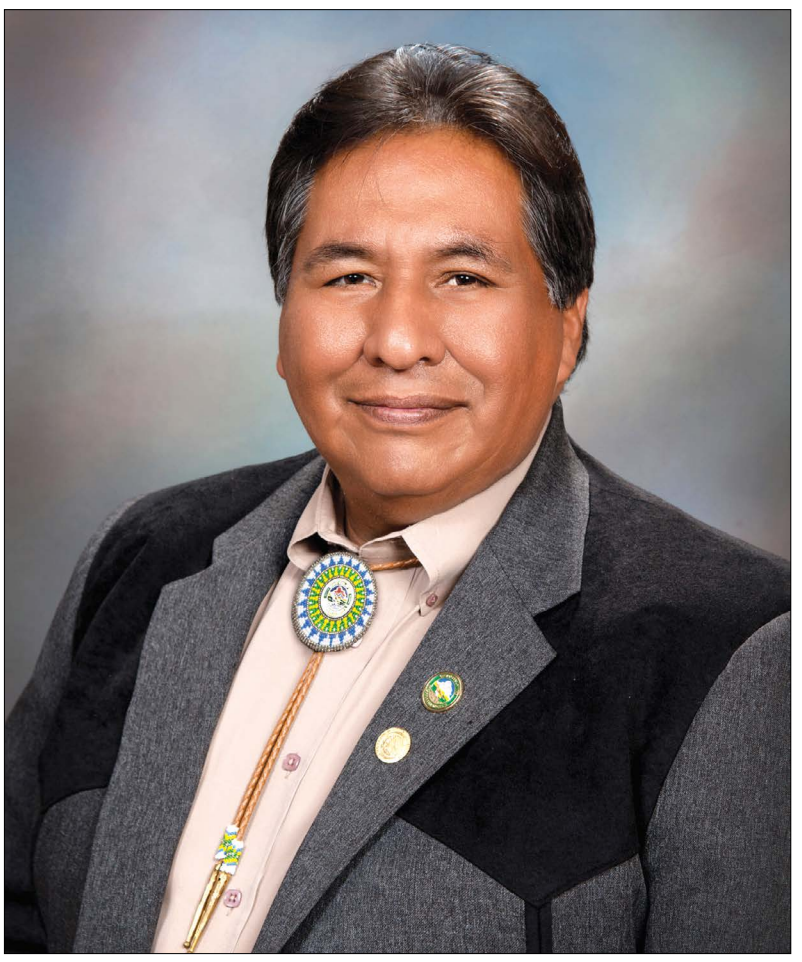
"I feel that we are growing these last few years with our developments and that is opening and creating jobs for a lot of citizens," Hill said. "The executive and legislative branches need to continue working together to help our citizens in this area."

Hill added one thing about the citizens.

"It is a pleasure and honor serving our citizens," Hill said. "It is great seeing the look on their faces when Creek Nation helps them out."

Hill is a member of the Beaver Clan and New Tulsa Tribal Town.

MCN National Council representative features: Frank Coachman



MNN File Photo
Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Okfuskee District Seat A Representative Frank Coachman.

Coachman shares his life outside legislative duties

Amanda Rutland/*Media Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Frank Coachman is commonly known as a Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council representative. However, looking past his legislative position, he is a family man; who is proud to be Muscogee (Creek).

Coachman grew up in the same community he now represents. He resides in the Cromwell, Okla., area on his family's Dawes allotment, where he and his wife are raising two of their grandchildren. He is retired from Exxon Mobile's plastics division in Shawnee, Okla., after 34 years.

He said he doesn't watch much television, but watches the news and likes comedies.

"I watch comedy shows news if they come on. I like the John Stewart 'Daily Show;' him and the Colbert," Coachman said. "It's a family type thing cause my grandkids, you know; we don't watch much shows together. The 'Swamp People' and 'Duck Dynasty,' my granddaughter she will set down and watch those two together and I really enjoy that time."

Coachman said his hobbies include: riding his motorcycle, fishing when he has time and caring for his cattle.

"I am not a big rancher. I have only about twelve cows but feeding them, you know; and setting out hay and doing stuff like that is what I do," Coachman said.

During his time on the Council, Coachman was able to travel on the Ocmulgee to Okmulgee Bike Tour and said that it was an amazing experience to be in the homelands and to imagine what it was like pre-Removal.

"That was a moving experience. I didn't know what to expect. That was my very first time; and to go in there where they had the Council meeting in that little mound down there was really, really something," Coachman said.

Coachman traveled to the Battle Horseshoe Bend bicentennial ceremony March 27 and took two of his grandchildren with him. He said he wanted them to see where the Muscogee (Creek) people lived before Removal.

"The day we got down there we went to the park, and it was just us. That was emotional for me, but it was good for the kids because they actually got to walk down close to the river; walk everywhere.

"We came back, my granddaughter; we pulled up Battle of Horseshoe Bend, and just showed her this is what actually happened; saw a short video and read a little bit about it. She just really, really got interested in it," Coachman said.

Coachman's father died when he was 12-years-old and he didww not get a chance to learn the ceremonial ground traditions. He started going with his Aunt Lorene to Greenleaf Ceremonial Ground over 10 years ago.

"They gave me a name and I've got to help with part of the ceremonies that they do, Greencorn," Coachman said. "I am teaching my grand children to do that too and it's one of those things I would like to keep going."

Coachman shared his feelings about being involved in this aspect of Muscogee (Creek) culture.

"That feeling you get after dancing all night and taking your medicine, everything; seeing that sun come up. You get a feeling that only a Creek person knows…It's like a new beginning," Coachman said.

A day in the life of Chief Tiger: part 3



MNN/Darren DeLaune
Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger discussed issues March 10 with Oklahoma State Sen. Roger Ballenger at the Oklahoma Tribal Legislative Reception.

A first hand look at leading the MCN: at the capitol

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A while back, I had the opportunity to follow Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger during one of his workdays leading the MCN.

We stayed in his office for the majority of that day and the furthest we traveled was to Tulsa.

Tiger is so busy while at the office; I could not imagine what a day would be like out of the office at an event. A few days later, I found out.

On March 10, we had to make a trip to Oklahoma City for a meeting with the Democratic Caucus and reception with tribal leaders and state politicians from across Oklahoma.

My day with Tiger began kind of late. I showed up at his office about 8:30 a.m., and he was in a meeting with managers and directors from different departments.

8:45-9:15 a.m. – After his meeting, Tiger had to sign paperwork and return phone calls.

9:15-10:30 a.m. – We departed to OKC for the luncheon meeting and the reception was scheduled for that afternoon. Along the way, Tiger spoke about his days growing up in the Yardeka Community.

"I did not have any sisters; it was all boys," Tiger said.

Tiger spoke about his parents, the late Coody and Lela McNac-Tiger.

"My dad would go all the way to Dustin and fill up on gas because he said it was cheaper, at the time gas was ten cents a gallon in Henryetta and 8 cents a gallon in Dustin," laughed Tiger. "My mother would get on to him and say, 'You are going to use half of the gas just coming back home.' "

Tiger spoke about Yardeka Indian Baptist Church and one of their pastors, the late Bunny Hill.

"I really do miss him a lot," Tiger said. "He was a great man, pastor, father, athlete and friend."

After he said that, I saw a tremble in his lip but then a smile showed up on his face. He remembered a lot of happy and fun times with Hill.

10:30-11:45 a.m. – In Okemah, Okla., we met up with Edwin Marshall, Manager of MCN Public Relations and Neely Tsoodle, Director of Mvskoke Media and proceeded on our way to OKC.

11:40 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. – We met with Secretary of the MCN Department of Health, Lt. Cmdr. Seneca Smith at the Oklahoma State Capitol. Tiger was asked to sit in with the House of Representatives during the session.

12:30-1:30 p.m. – Tiger was the keynote speaker for the Democratic Caucus members. Rep. Jerry McPeak introduced Tiger to the Caucus.

Chief discussed many topics, related to the MCN and the State of Oklahoma.

"It has always been 'us versus them,' " Tiger said. "It cannot be that way no more. We share communities, people; and now we need to share resources."

Tiger spoke about the MCN purchase of the George Nigh Rehabilitation Center and the Okmulgee Memorial Hospital. He also spoke about the new MCN hospital to be built in Okemah, Okla.

"With the purchases that have been made, we are doing everything to make the Muscogee (Creek) Nation better and stronger for our citizens," Tiger said.

After the luncheon, Tiger spoke on the importance of keeping lines of communications open with state representatives.

"As chief, that is one of my main responsibilities," Tiger said. "There are sometimes we will disagree with the state; but we still need each other."

After the luncheon, Tiger took a trip down memory lane. Tiger took me to the Wheeler Park softball fields and told me some stories about his softball days.

"We played some games back to back," Tiger said. "After that first game we tried to buy time and walk slow because we were so tired. For that game, I had to pitch 21 innings. We lost 2-1 but if we won; we would have had to have turn around and played again. Exhausting day."

3-3:45 p.m. – Tiger visited employees at the American Indian Cultural Center and Museum and told them about the Bicentennial Commemoration for the Battle of Horseshoe Bend.

4:30-6:30 p.m. – The final place Tiger had to go to was the Jim Thorpe Hall of Fame for the Oklahoma Tribal Legislative Reception. There, Tiger met with other delegates from the MCN. Representatives from all tribes were present as well as state representatives.

"We are at an event where tribal and state government can get together and talk about needs for all of our citizens," Tiger said. "This is great because we can talk about issues, network and share ideas."

After the reception, Tiger started the journey back to MCN. Although his day of meetings and receptions was done, there were still issues at the MCN. Chief talked on the phone for the duration of the trip, resolving concerns from citizens and departments.

"This is my responsibility," Tiger said. "To make sure we can get things taken care of. Whether I am in my office or away at meetings; I am always wanting to make sure our citizens concerns are first and foremost."

Chief arrived home for the end of another day at 8:30 p.m.

Muscogee (Creek) citizen inducted into athletic hall of fame



Submission
Muscogee (Creek) citizen Jackson Barnett speaks March 15 during his induction ceremony into the Ken Hayes-Enos Semore Athletic Hall of Fame at Bacone College in Muskogee, Okla.

Barnett recognized at Bacone College

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A prestigious honor was presented to a Muscogee (Creek) citizen March 15 in Muskogee, Okla.

Jackson Barnett was a part of a group that was inducted into the Ken Hayes-Enos Semore Athletic Hall of Fame at Bacone College.

This was the second annual event for the university.

"Words cannot describe how I felt that night," Jackson said. "Old memories came back of when I went to school here."

Jackson was recognized for his strengths in track and field but an accident during his childhood almost prevented him from reaching this accomplishment.

"Words cannot describe how I felt that night. Old memories came back of when I went to school here."

- Jackson Barnett, Bacone College Ken Hayes-Enos Semore Athletic Hall of Fame inductee

"There was an accident when I was swinging on a vine," Jackson said. "My brother was holding an axe but he was holding it the wrong way, with the sharp side pointed out.

They were going to make one big vine into two vines so they could keep swinging but the accident happened when Jackson jumped off and he cut his foot on the axe. He was cut from his heel to Achilles tendon.

"The hospital I went to could not help me because they did not have the facilities that I would need," Jackson said. "For awhile I had to crawl everywhere. I had a medicine man come out and doctor my heal and nurses would come out twice a week to change bandages but that was all the medical attention that I had."

What ended up almost being a tragic ending turned into a great feat for Jackson. He healed and eventually began running again.

"Growing up, we did not have a car so where ever I went to, I had to run to get there," Jackson said. "And for sports that was all we did was run."

His running would take him to Bacone College where he joined his brother Bill Barnett on the Bacone Junior College track team.

Barnett was a member of the Bacone Junior College track and field state championship teams in 1955 and 1956. In 1956 Jackson along with his brother, Bill Rainey and John King broke their own school record in the mile relay with a time of 3 minutes, 30.5 seconds at the state championship.

Barnett also set a personal best in the 880-yard run at 2:00.5 in the state championship meet.

"We did a lot of training on our own," Jackson said. "We had a coach from football and one from basketball. If we had a coach only for track and field, who knows how much better we would have been. I think we did pretty good training ourselves."

After Bacone, Jackson enrolled at East Texas State University. That did not work out for him and eventually he went and joined the military.

"I always regretted that I did not get to run at a bigger university," Jackson said.

Over 20 members of his family were there for the induction ceremony. His brother Bill told the story about Jackson's injury and his granddaughter escorted Jackson to receive his award.

"My brother did a lot with me," Jackson said. "We ran together, trained and won together. I wish he would have won these awards like me. That is what I want."

Jackson looks back and is happy about what he has accomplished.

"All I did was do what I grew up doing," Jackson said. "And that was running. It paid off."

Muscogee (Creek) citizen completes college athletic career

Proctor uses basketball to get college education

Chelsie Rich/*Project Specialist*

LAWRENCE, Kan. — Muscogee (Creek) athlete, Grant Proctor has completed the final basketball season of his college career at Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kan.

"When I first began to play basketball competitively, I was not very athletically gifted or very skillful," Proctor said. "I decided that I wanted to play basketball because I seen it as a challenge. I had to work twice as hard in basketball as baseball."

After graduating from Wilson High School in 2010, Proctor received a scholarship to play basketball at Central Christian College in McPherson, Kan., where he played for two years.

"Being a student athlete definitely has many advantages to it; but it also comes with a lot of responsibility," Proctor said.

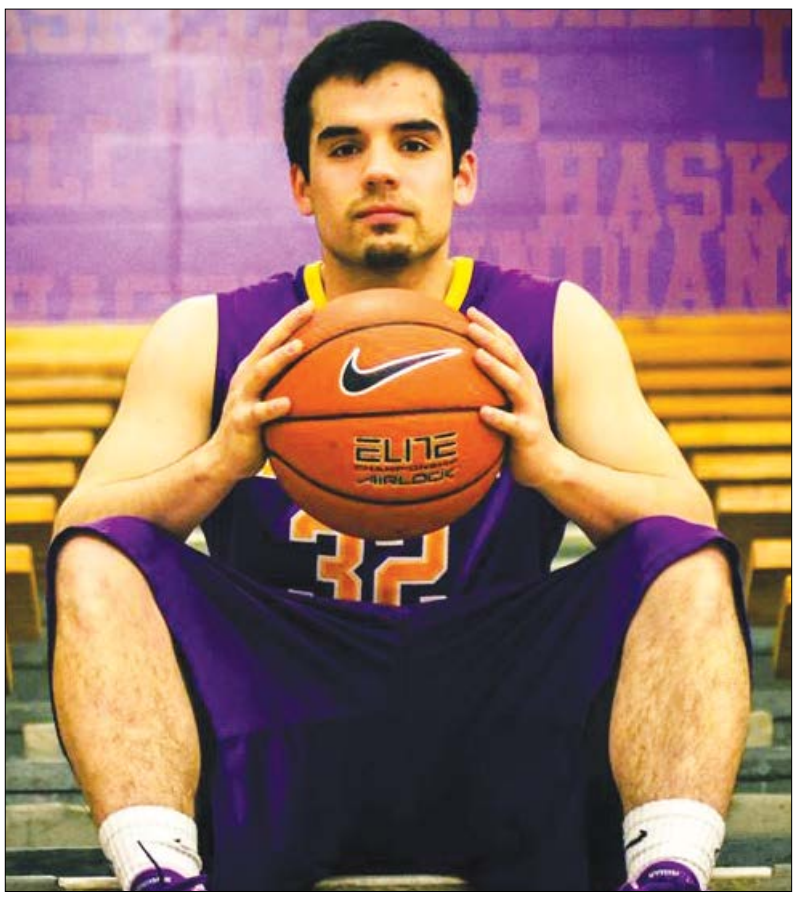
Proctor then transferred to HINU to start as point guard for his last two years.

"If you have a dream of playing at the collegiate level, pursue it. The experiences you have and the friendships you gain along with the lessons that you learn are well worth the time and dedication that are required," Proctor said.

While at HINU, Proctor was named the Midlands Collegiate Athletic Conference Scholar Athlete for 2012-2013 and 2013-14 and National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Division II Men's Daktronics Academic All American for 2013-2014.

A junior at HINU where he maintains a 3.6 GPA, Proctor majors in Elementary Education and is set to graduate in 2015.

"The reason that I chose Elementary Education as my major was because I wanted to be a positive male role model for children," Proctor said. "I wanted to be able to impact children's lives in a positive way. I believe that education is the key to being successful for anyone at any age."



Submission
Muscogee (Creek) athlete, Grant Proctor from Wilson, Okla., has completed the final season of his college basketball career at Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kan.

Education also runs in the family.

"Another reason is because it is like they say, 'The apple doesn't fall far from the tree.' My mom is an elementary teacher," Proctor said.

Proctor is also part of the Kansas National Education Association and a member of Haskell's Education Program Cohort 20.

"Playing basketball has helped me remain focused on my grades while in school… the discipline that I learned from basketball has transited into all aspects of my life and taught me what it means to work hard," Proctor said.

After completing his bachelor's degree, Proctor plans to return to Oklahoma to teach.

"I also plan to coach high school basketball, settle down, get married and have a family," Proctor said.

Proctor plans to continue to play recreational basketball for a team he cofounded called The Justice League.

"I love the game way too much to give it up," Proctor said.

Proctor shared a saying told to him by his father that has motivated him over the years.

"Make the most of all your opportunities. If you get a chance at something, take that opportunity and run with it. Whatever you do in life make sure it makes you happy."

He also shared another inspiration.

"I am a firm believer in Jesus Christ and believe that he is the reason I was blessed in so many different ways over the years," Proctor said. "Without him, I would not have been able to accomplish anything. I give him credit for all of my athletic abilities and opportunities."

Proctor is the son of Andrew and Tonya Proctor of Wilson, Okla., and a member of Weogufkee Indian Baptist Church.

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Muscogee (Creek) participants succeed at OYE



Submission
Muscogee (Creek) citizen Sophie Varner won a $500 scholarship along with prize money for the sale of her top placing gilts at the Oklahoma Youth Expo in Oklahoma City.

Varner receives $500 scholarship for livestock

Jessica McBride/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Four Muscogee (Creek) Nation 4-H Club participants came home with wins from the Oklahoma Youth Expo Breeding Gilt Show March 12-21 at the State Fair Park in Oklahoma City.

Coined as 'The World's Largest Junior Livestock Show,' 4-H and Future Farmers of America exhibitors from around the state enter their swine, goat, sheep and cattle projects in the competition. Approximately 7,000 exhibitors participate in the show each year.

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Kaleb Robinson of the Moss 4-H Club placed third in the Spot breed division, Adison McLaughlin of the Eufaula 4-H Club placed ninth in the Hampshire Breed division and Markie Carmen of the Fort Gibson FFA Club placed 54th in the Commercial division.

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Sophie Varner of the Bristow 4-H Club placed: fourth, 15th, and 22nd with her gilts in the Commercial division.

A gilt is a young female pig that has not produced a litter.

The top 100 gilts of all breeds are eligible for the OYE Sale of Champions March 21. All four children qualified for the sale. Varner's gilts sold for $8,900, $3,500 and $9,500.

"But I can tell you; it's pretty impressive to tell people that, listen; out of a hundred we had seven Creek Nation 4-H-ers in that sale," MCN 4-H Program Project Manager Billy Haltom said. "There are buyers from all over the United States there… They're going to actually use them in reproduction. That's the reason they're so valuable."

In addition to the sale money, 10-year-old Sophie Varner is a recipient of a $500 scholarship from the OYE Scholarship Fund for exhibiting the fourth place overall commercial gilt.

"This is her first year to get to go," Lisa Varner, Sophie Varner's mother said. "We were hoping to possibly get one in the sale; you know; but never dreamed of getting all three by any means."

Lisa Varner said the sales proceeds Sophie Varner received will go toward purchasing show animals for next year and her college fund.

Lisa Varner said that Sophie Varner was thrilled with her success at OYE.

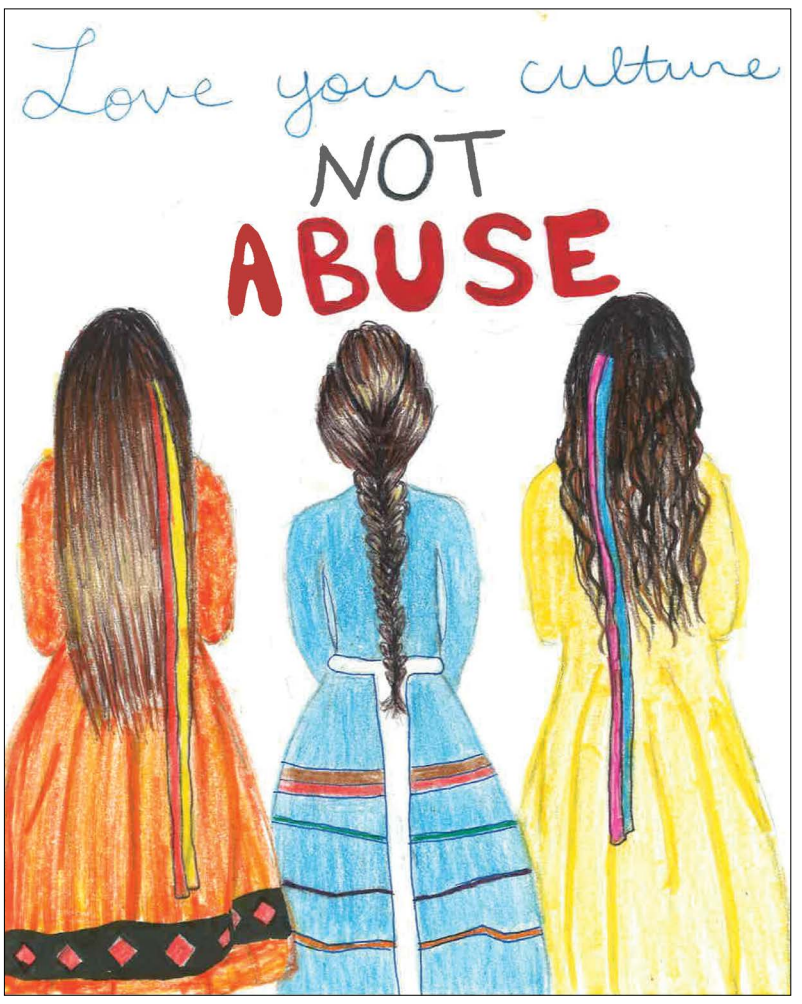
"This was big time. This was like celebrity status for her," Lisa Varner said. "She thought she was quite a star."

By participating in 4-H events, Lisa Varner said that her family has learned how to work together; and that Sophie Varner has learned that the key to success is a little bit of elbow grease.

"The show has taught her that she definitely has to work very hard to be successful at a big show as competitive as it is," Lisa Varner said.

Sophie Varner's parents are Muscogee (Creek) citizens Pokey and Lisa Varner from Bristow, Okla.

Citizen wins Teen Dating Violence Awareness Artwork Contest



Submission
Muscogee (Creek) citizen, Maddie Lamb incorporated traditional dress in her winning piece for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Family Violence Prevention Program's 2014 Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Artwork Contest.

Lamb utilizes traditional dress in piece

Chelsie Rich/*Project Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Family Violence Prevention Program held the 3rd annual 2014 Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Artwork Contest.

The contest is held every year in February for National Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month.

Any Muscogee (Creek) citizen between the ages 12-18 is eligible to enter the contest.

"We're trying to get young people involved in the movement," said Mitzi Pope, MCN Family Violence Prevention Program Youth Advocate.

The first place winner receives a grand prize of $200 and the two runners up are awarded $100.

The purpose of the artwork contest is to raise awareness about teen dating violence as well as encourage healthy relationships and the safe use of technology in these relationships.

"We wanted to see what they think about teen dating violence; what was their idea about healthy relationships and just bringing awareness," said Pope.

In this year's contest, participants were asked to try and incorporate Native American culture into their artwork.

Muscogee (Creek) citizen, Maddie Lamb, and a freshman at Sequoyah High School in Tahlequah, Okla., has entered the art contest for the past three years.

She placed second in 2012 and 2013 and first place in this year's contest.

To incorporate Native American culture, Lamb drew three young women in traditional dress.

"We should stand together and prevent teen violence," Lamb said.

Lamb draws as a hobby and it is her father is who inspired her to start.

"He was always drawing; so I started drawing and I liked it. I got better and better and started entering contests and winning them," Lamb said.

Lamb also won first place in an art contest for Cherokee Nation.

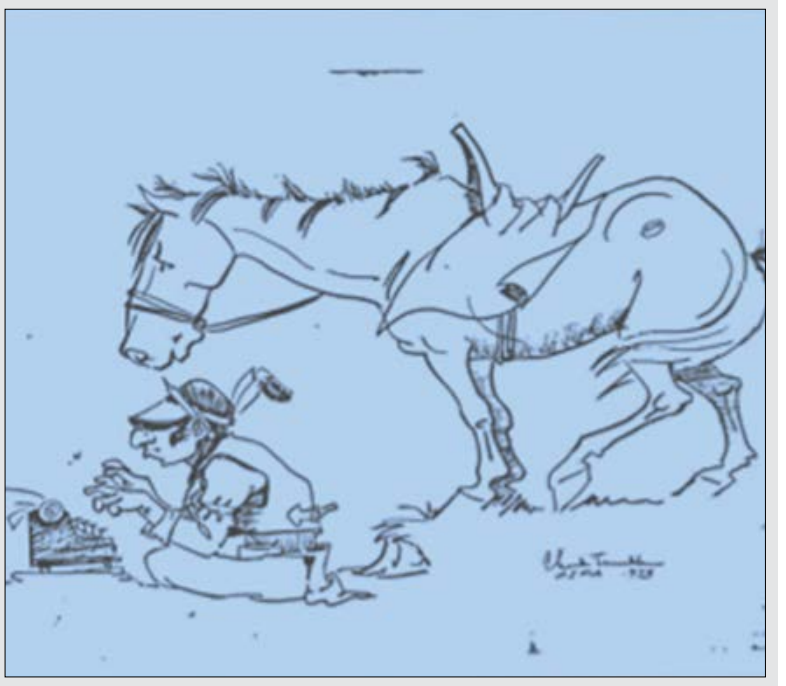
The first runner up for the 2014 Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Artwork Contest is Tyra Wilson and the second runner up is Katelyn Bruner.

If you or someone you know is in an abusive dating relationship; contact the MCN Family Violence Prevention Program at: 918-732-7869.

For emergencies after-hours contact the MCN Lighthorse Police Department at: 877-547-3390 to speak to an on-call advocate.

Emvpanyv

Continued from Page 1



decision.

It could make some people feel like they're taking the proverbial '30 pieces of silver.'

From the 'WHAT THE H... WERE THEY THINKING?' category: The Native Indian Gaming Association, pulled out of from a charity golf tournament April 12 because the R ... s Foundation was involved. That group said it wondered whether Snyder was real and didn't want anything to do with a 'charade.'

And…the Notah Begay Foundation (started by Navajo professional golfer Notah Begay) pulled out of the tourney because he, "had no knowledge of their involvement;" (OAF) and the foundation is, "adamantly opposed to the team's continued use of this derogatory name."

According to the 'Washington Post,' the man leading that team's foundation is also the head of an organization that was the subject of a federal investigation into a "defective contract," which cost the Bureau of Indian Affairs nearly $1 million.

Gary L. Edwards, Chief Executive of the National Native American Law Enforcement Association, was supposed to recruit Native Americans to work as cops in Indian country.

A 2012 ... (2012!) .. .Inspector General's report, found that, of the 748 applications the organization supplied; none were usable. One applicant was 80-years-old. Several were not U.S. citizens.

Of the 514 applications reviewed by the U.S. Office of the Inspector General, only 22 were of Indian descent.

The OIG advised that the contract be terminated immediately. But it was too late and by by that time, the organization had been paid $967,100 of the $1 million contract.

Edwards said they did what they were contracted to do.

Hey, BIA, another million bucks down the tube. Who approved this one anyway?

Is it to be or not to be?

We're still waiting on whether or not the Oklahoma state legislature will finally approve funding for the state project, The American Indian Museum and Cultural Center.

Supporters want to use $40 million from the state's Unclaimed Property Fund to finish up the half-completed museum.

Opponents say there are better uses for the money.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation has kicked in $250,000 according to MCN Principal Chief George Tiger and Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin said (behind closed doors) that she supported the museum.

As of mid-April, supporters were anxiously awaiting floor votes in the House but were concerned that political delays on the House side could derail the bill.

Hey Grads, time to get those announcements in to the editor of this paper. The deadline is May 16.

Don't wait until the last minute. You could miss out!

Hvtvm Cehecares — 'I'll see you again.'

One Fire donates Easter gifts to MCN childcare programs



Mvskoke Media/Tyler Roberds

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) Nation One Fire Casino employees donated over $300 in Easter baskets, eggs and candy April 11 to the MCN Office of Child Care, Head Start and the Okmulgee Women's Shelter. The proceeds helped over 90 children.

From left to right: One Fire Casino employees: Phone Ops, Stacy Jack; Administrative Assistant Sherry Berryhill; General Manager Travis Thompson; Assistant General Manager Lorinda Driskill and MCN Head Start Teacher Shannon Broncho.

OBITUARIES

DERESA ANTHONY



STROUD, Okla. — Deresa Lynn Anthony was born July 12, 1964 in Bakersfield, Calif., and passed from this life Jan. 16, 2014 at her home in Stroud at the age of 49.

Deresa moved with her family to Weleetka when she was about 10-years-old and was raised there by her mother Brenda Smith Thomas and stepfather Iven Thomas.

She attended Weleetka School. In 1979 she was married to David Anthony and one son was born to this union. She was later married to Max Frye and they had a son and a daughter.

As a young lady, she began working as a nurse aid at area nursing homes. She also worked as a sales clerk and waitress as well as for Dr. Yale Parkhurst and Dr. Robert Lovell in Weleetka, Okla. She had lived the past 13 years in Stroud.

Being the mother of a child with special needs, she was deeply devoted to her children. They were her life.

Survivors include: husband Max Frye of Wetumka; children, Douglas Anthony II and wife Farrah and Bailey and Dakota Frye all of Stroud; mother Brenda Franklin and husband Jeff of Stroud; maternal grandmother Clara June Morgan of Stroud; sister Lesa Pruitt of Weleetka; stepbrother Darin Thomas and wife Carrie of Edmond, Okla.; grandsons, Andru and Seth of Stroud along with several other relatives and many friends.

Funeral services were Jan. 21 at the First Baptist Church in Weleetka with Rev. Don Williamson and Rev. Joe Smith officiating.

Pallbearers are: Doug Anthony, Joseph Smith, Nathan Smith, Dru Anthony, Nick Hill and Mark Dunning.

Honorary Pallbearer is Seth Anthony.

Interment was Smith Family Cemetery under the direction of Williamsen-Spradlin Funeral Home of Weleetka.

ELMER HAYNES



SHAWNEE, Okla. — Elmer Haynes, 79, Seminole resident, died March 2, 2014 in St. Anthony's Shawnee Hospital in Shawnee. He was born March 1, 1935 in Henryetta, Okla., to Henry Clay Haynes and Nicey Jacobs-Haynes.

Elmer was a longtime Prague resident and moved to Seminole one and a half years ago. He was a member of the Freewill Baptist Church in Prague.

Elmer worked for: the City of Prague, Okla., as a water meter reader; Prague Hospital, as a maintenance supervisor, for many years and the Dolly Madison Company in California in his younger years.

He was a veteran of the U.S. Navy and a citizen of the (Creek) Nation of Oklahoma.

Elmer was loved by many people and was friends to everyone. He was known as having never met a stranger.

Elmer was married to Roxie Shirlene Miller-Haynes Nov. 16, 1956 and she preceded him in death May 19, 2011.

Elmer married Christine Fish-Haynes Oct. 19, 2012 in Meeker, Okla.

Mr. Haynes is survived by: his wife Christine Haynes of Seminole; sons, Delbert and Vickie Haynes of Seminole and James "Chabbit" Haynes of Prague; step-son Keith Dinwiddie of Edmond, Okla.; daughters, Karen Littlehead of Shawnee, Andrea Haynes of Prague; Delberta Vallejo and Andrew of Seattle; Katherine (Kat) Clemons and Justin of Shawnee; step-daughter Krystle Neese of Moore, Okla.; brothers, Bill Haynes, of Seminole and Vernon Haynes of Fort McDowell, Ariz.; sisters, Pauline Forrest, of Henryetta, Louina Crofut of Okmulgee, Okla., and Pauline Counts of Henryetta; grandchildren, Danita Vallejo, April Bullard, Verina Canada, Denise Vallejo, Nathan Henry, Leanne Collier, A-yo Henry, Mes-ke Collier, Maylee Dawn Clemons and his great-grandchildren, Nayana Scott, Harlee Bullard, Imani Scott, Ethan "Bon" Simpson, Kynlee Bullard, Roxie Mae Simpson and Kiesyn Canada.

He was preceded in death by: his parents; first wife, Roxie in 2011; son, Curtis Dean Haynes; brothers, Hoover Haynes and Sonny James Haynes and sister, Evelyn Quinton.

Funeral services were planned for March 6 at the Freewill Baptist Church with Rev. Randall Miller officiating, with burial following at Little Cemetery with U.S. Naval honors.

Casket bearers were: A-yo (Hawk) Haynes, Mike Winab, Marty Haynes, Billy (Ponch) Haynes, Reo Miller and Joey Jackson. Honorary bearers were: Vernon Haynes, Darold Haynes, Donnie Crofut, James Haynes, Delbert Haynes, Nathan Henry and Bill Haynes.

Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Swearingen Funeral Home in Seminole.

EMILY KING



SAPULPA, Okla. — Emily Rose King, a resident of Sapulpa, passed away March 22, 2014 at the age of 76. She was born July 18, 1937 to Charlie Micco King and Lilly Belle (Starr) King in Henryetta, Okla.

She graduated from Graham High School and attended the Chilocco Indian Agricultural School with honors in 1954.

She went on to attend Northeastern State College in Tahlequah, Okla., OSU in Okmulgee, Okla., and Tulsa Junior College in Tulsa, Okla., where she was on the Honor Roll at each college.

She was member of the Thewarle Indian Baptist Church in Dustin, Okla. She enjoyed doing genealogy, visiting different churches and she loved to eat.

She was preceded in death by: her parents, Charlie Micco and Lilly Belle King; daughter, Gwendolyn Sue Bunny Wallace; sister, Veronica Scott and brothers, Alfred Berryhill and Charles Edward King.

Survivors include: her children, Monty Bunny of Sapulpa and Faren Bunny of Glenpool, Okla.; brother, Bob King and wife, Anna of Tulsa; grandchildren, Josh Bunny, Cheyenne Bunny and Sally Miller Thompson; nieces, Donna Marie Scott, Tonya Scott Renoud, Karen Tottn and Beverly Ayers along with numerous other great-nieces, nephews and other relatives and friends.

Funeral Services were scheduled March 27 at the Tallahassee Indian Methodist Church with Revs. Sammy Chupco and Charles Enloe officiating. Burial followed at the Westlawn Cemetery in Henryetta under the direction of the Jackson Funeral Home and Crematory in Okmulgee, Okla.

Pallbearers are: Josh Bunny, Monty Bunny, Faren Bunny, Kenneth Berryhill, David Luna and James Jones and the honorary pallbearer is Bob King.

Friends may send their condolences to: www.jacksonfhandcrematory.com.

TERRI ROHLAND



SAPULPA, Okla. — Terri Lee (Barnett) Rohland, 54 of Sapulpa went to be with the Lord March 1, 2014. She was born July 18, 1959 in Henryetta, Okla., to Haney and Udola Payne-Barnett.

She is survived by: her husband; Steve Rohland of the home; children, Craig Barnett and wife Tammi of Mounds, Okla., Jimmie Stevens and husband Matt of Sand Springs, Okla., Kelli Williams and husband Tallo of Sapulpa; grandchildren, Brentlee Barnett, Micco Reed, Chandler Stevens, Paxton Williams, Travyn Barnett, Tatum Williams and Cortland Stevens; siblings, Ronald Payne and wife Carlee, Norma Standridge and husband Scott, Bill, Dickey and Tony Barnett along with numerous nieces and nephews.

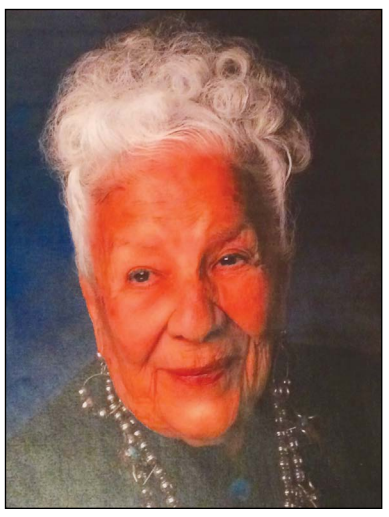
She was preceded in death by: both parents Haney and Udola Barnett and her sister Donna Gillett.

She was a loving wife, mother and grandmother. She will be missed dearly by so many.

Funeral services were March 5 at the Smith Funeral Home Chapel 1208 South Main Street, Sapulpa OK. Interment followed at a family cemetery in Barnsdall, Okla.

Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Smith Funeral Home.

THEDA RUSHING



SANTA FE, N.M. — Theda Douglas Rushing died March 26, 2014. She was born August 27, 1915, to Melissa Cosar Douglas and James Andrew Douglas, on her mother's allotment west of Eufaula, Okla.

She was the granddaughter of Lucinda Lewis Cosar and George Cosar, Lighthorse and the great-granddaughter of Polly Proctor Lewis and Jackson Lewis (Lahte Yahola), a survivor of the Trail of Tears, medicine man for the Mvskoke (Creek) and lieutenant in the Civil War.

A graduate of Haskell Institute, Theda accepted a civil service position at the Albuquerque Indian School, in 1937.

She taught typing at the Albuquerque Indian School and performed secretarial work at both the Albuquerque and Santa Fe Indian Schools. In 1946, she resigned to make a home for her family and pursue her love of art. With God-given talent, she was proficient in many art forms.

She designed and custom-made hundreds of dresses that incorporated Native American designs and used similar motifs to design notions for Oppenheimer of New York.

Her first one-woman show was a full window display at the Palmer House in Chicago; followed by a month-long exhibit of a children's dress at the National Collection of Fine Arts, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.; and later juried exhibitions in many western states.

In 1961, Theda returned to work with the Bureau of Indian Affairs. That same year, she was commissioned by the University of New Mexico to execute the first 6' x 7' University of New Mexico seal, in felt fabric.

The banner was used as a backdrop at official UNM functions until 1980, when the seal was redesigned. Theda executed the redesigned seal in felt and the original banner was retired and displayed at Hodgin Hall on the UNM campus.

Also, she created banners for the UNM School of Law and the UNM School of Medicine. In 1994, the UNM Regents presented her with a Meritorious Service Award.

She was most proud of the assistance she provided to Felix S. Cohen, attorney and author of the "Handbook of American Indian Law", in the 1947 litigation that affirmed the right of Pueblo Indians to vote in State of New Mexico elections.

Mr. Cohen, Miguel Trujillo, Principal of the Isleta Day School and Theda completed this historic work on a table in her living room. Her papers were added to those of Mr. Cohen at Yale University.

She retired in 1977, as secretary for the Bureau of Indian Affairs Area Director in Albuquerque and began designing in clay and batik.

She was a member of the Immaculate Conception Church, and for 26-years she served as the state treasurer for the National League of American Pen Women. She enjoyed travelling and ballroom dancing with her husband, Jack.

Theda was preceded in death by: her husband of 64 years, Jack Rushing; her parents; sister Jerlena Douglas King and brothers John, James and Clarence Douglas.

She is survived by: her daughter, Bettie Rushing of Albuquerque; son, Jack Douglas and his wife Barbara of Audubon, Pa; grandson Woodrow Robert Rushing of Albuquerque, N.M.; grandson Jack Douglas Rushing Jr., his wife Carol and their children Grant, Audrey, and Miles, of Rockville, Md., along with many nephews and nieces, children and grandchildren.

Services were held for the family at the National Cemetery in Santa Fe. A memorial will be held at 11 a.m., May 17, 2014, at the UNM Alumni Memorial Chapel in Albuquerque, N.M.

In lieu of flowers, Theda requested contributions be made to the University of New Mexico Foundation for the Jack and Theda Rushing Baseball and Track Scholarship.

MVTO

From Muscogee (Creek) Elder and Native Praise Singer Esther Gee to Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger and the MCN National Council.

MVTO for allowing us to visit our Creek Homeland in Alabama.

Even though this was my second time to visit the Horseshoe Bend Military Park.

This trip was more memorable due to the early presentations by the Cultural Preservation Department at the Mound Bldg.

Dr. Braund, who gave the keynote address at the Horseshoe Bend Bicentennial Program, was also the speaker at Creek Nation who told us about the Creek History and Removal.

The most AWESOME SIGHT was to witness at night at the Horseshoe Bend Park, the 800 luminaries depicting the 800 fallen Creeks and 70 luminaries depicting the 70 fallen Jackson militia men.

It brought home to me the sacrifice of our people to keep our homeland in Alabama.

Thank you for allowing us to sing the Creek Hymns that have been preserved and sung on the Trail of Tears. Mr. David Dunson, Terrie Fish and the bus drivers did a great job keeping care of us.

ATTENTION AMERICAN INDIAN VETERANS

MUSCOGEE NATION
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
ESTABLISHED 1970

VA HEALTH CARE | Defining EXCELLENCE in the 21st Century

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Veterans Affairs Services Office and Department of Health in conjunction with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center-Muskogee is hosting Enrollment Fairs for Veterans Health and Service-Connected Disability Benefits.

Eufaula Indian Health Center
800 Forest Avenue
Eufaula, OK 74432
Thursday
1 May 2014
1000 – 1400

Okmulgee Indian Health Center
1313 E. 20th Street
Okmulgee, OK 74447
Thursday
8 May 2014
1000 – 1400

Wetumka Indian Health Center
325 S. Washita Street
Wetumka, OK 74883
Tuesday
13 May 2014
1000 – 1400

Creek Nation Community Hospital
309 N. 14th Street
Okemah, OK 74859
Thursday
15 May 2014
1000 – 1400

Koweta Indian Health Facility
31870 E. Hwy 51
Coweta, OK 74429
Tuesday
20 May 2014
1000 – 1400

Sapulpa Indian Health Center
1125 E. Cleveland
Sapulpa, OK 74066
Thursday
22 May 2014
1000 – 1400

PLEASE BRING THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTATION
1.) COPY OF DD-214
2.) TRIBAL CITIZENSHIP CARD

For any questions please contact:
Ken Davis, Director, Veterans Affairs Services Office, Muscogee (Creek) Nation
P.O. Box 580, Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447 • (918) 732-7739 • kendavis@mcn-nsn.gov
or
LCDR Amy Eden, Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health
1801 E. 4th Street, Okmulgee, OK 74447 • (918) 756-4333 ext. 315 • Amy.eden@creekhealth.org

MCN Community and Tribal Events

Okmulgee Farmer's market grand opening set for May 2

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The grand opening for the Okmulgee Farmer's Market is set for May 2 from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. on the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Council House grounds at the intersection of 6th and Morton in Okmulgee.

The normal market times will be Tuesday-Friday, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. from May-October 2014.

The market now accepts snap, senior market (applications available at the Okmulgee Health Department) and debit cards.

Children's Mental Health event set for May 6

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health has set an event for Children's Mental Health Awareness Day for May 6 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the MCN Mound Building at the MCN Complex in Okmulgee.

To register for the event visit: www.surveymonkey.com/s/2v8yvsd. For questions or to volunteer email: erica.ridgley@creekhealth.org or call: 918-224-9307.

Spring Tea event set for May 7

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Okmulgee-Okfuskee Youth Services has set their Annual 8th Grade Girls Spring Tea May 7 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Crosstown Pentecostal Holiness Church in Okmulgee.

The purpose of the event is to promote good choices and a healthy lifestyle.

To sign up for a resource booth or for more information call Shelly Green at: 918-756-7700.

MCN Senior Services meeting set for May 7

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The next Muscogee (Creek) Nation Senior Services meeting is set for 10 a.m., May 7 at the MCN Elderly Nutrition Center in Okmulgee.

For more information contact Christy Carson at: 918-732-7765.

Senior Games and Symposium set for May 9

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The 2014 Muscogee (Creek) Nation Senior Games and Symposium has been set for May 9 at the MCN Omniplex in Okmulgee.

Attendees must be 55-years-old and provide their MCN citizenship card.

For more information contact Christy Carson at: 918-732-7765 or ccarson@mcn-nsn.gov.

Creek singing set for May 11

BIXBY, Okla. — A Creek singing event is set for Mother's Day, May 11 at Bemo Indian Baptist Church, 13323 S. 73rd E. Ave., Bixby, OK.

Singing will begin after lunch.

OKCIC new citizenship card enrollment set for May 13

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Citizenship Board will host remote enrollment for the new Muscogee (Creek) Nation citizenship cards May 13 from 10 a.m. - 6:45 p.m at the Oklahoma City Muscogee Creek Association office, 4111 N. Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City, OK 73105.

For more information contact the OCMA office Tuesdays-Thursdays from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., at: 405-605-2621.

CLE Seminar set for May 15-16

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The 12th Annual Continuing Legal Education Seminar is set for May 15-16 from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the River Spirit Event Center in Tulsa, Okla.

For more information contact 918-758-1400.

Revival set for May 18-21

EUFAULA, Okla. — A revival is set for May 18-21 at Okfuskee Baptist Church in Eufaula starting at 7 p.m. nightly.

The speaker will be Jimmy Anderson and the music directors will be Jim and Sonya Davis.

For a ride call Colbert at: 918-490-3408 or Pastor Carr at: 918-881-0300.

Spring Revival set for May 19-23

SAPULPA, Okla. — A spring revival is set for 7 p.m., May 19-23 at Little Cussetah Indian Baptist Church.

Tim Coon is the featured speaker and everyone is welcome to attend.

Memorial gathering set for May 24

EUFAULA, Okla. — A memorial gathering is set for May 24 at West Eufaula Indian Baptist Church three miles southwest of Eufaula. The event will begin at 10 a.m. with a potluck dinner at 1 p.m.

Activities will include: games, a sword drill competition, songs, stories and photos.

For more information call Jon at: 918-850-3806 or Judy at: 918-689-6173.

Jim Thorpe Games set for June 8-14

SHAWNEE, Okla. — The third annual Jim Thorpe Native American games are set for June 8-14 at different venues throughout Shawnee.

For more information about the games call: 405-208-9253 or info@jimthorpegames.com or visit their website at: www.jimthorpegames.com.

MVTO

A special thank you to all who participated in the National Day of Prayer and Fasting event April 5 in Okmulgee, Okla.

Thank you to Brother Jess Freeman who represented Many Springs Church, Brother Hully Griffin, Brother Gary and Julie Dunn, Sister Mary Kelly who represented Indian Fellowship, Sister Leta Stovell who represented Cherokee Nation, Brother Berie Gibson who represented Choctaw Nation, Pastor Neigel Bigpond who represented Morning Star Church of All Nations and the Yuchi Tribe. Pastor AI and Betty Pulver who represented Covenant Harvest Ministries and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Sister Wanda Weaver representing Praise Ministries, Letha Stovall and Taylor Hooper with Shofar Ministry, Maggie Stephens, sister-in-law to Former MCN Principal Chief Perry Beaver who accepted a gift in his Honor and Maggie who represented Middle Creek #1.

To all in attendance, thank you for your obedience to the Lord in through you prayer life, giving Him honor, praise and glory. May God Bless our Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

-Mvto
Covenant Harvest Ministries

MCN SRO May schedule

MCN SRO/*Media Release*

WETUMKA, Okla. — The following is the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Southern Regional Office schedule for May.

May 6 - Tax Commission
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Lunch 11-11: 30 a.m.
TERO 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

May 7 - Citizenship
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

May 9 - WIC
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

May 13 - Tax Commission
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Lunch 11-11: 30 a.m.
TERO 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

May 20 - Tax Commission
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Lunch 11-11: 30 a.m.
TERO 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

May 23 - WIC
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

May 26 - Closed for Memorial Day

May 27 - Tax Commission
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Lunch 11-11: 30 a.m.
TERO 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

For more information, contact the MCN SRO at: 405-452-1155.

Upcoming submission deadlines for MNN

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The following is a list of upcoming deadlines to submit content for the 'Muscogee Nation News.'

May 15 — May 7

June 1 — May 22

June 15 — June 6

July 1 — June 20

July 15 — July 7

Aug. 1 — July 22

Aug. 15 — August 7

Sept. 1 — August 22

Sept. 15 — Sept. 5

Oct. 1 — Sept. 23

Oct. 15 — Oct. 7

Nov. 1 — Oct. 24



A crossword puzzle from the Mvskoke Language Preservation Program: *Numbers*

Hvmken — One
Hokkolen — Two
Tutcenen — Three
Osten — Four
Cahkepen — Five
Epaken — Six
Kulvpaken — Seven
Cenvpaken — Eight
Ostvpaken — Nine
Palen — Ten

Palen Hvmkvtvlaken — Eleven
Palen Hokkolokaken — Twelve
Palen Tutcenokaken — Thirteen
Palen Ostokaken — Fourteen
Palen Cahkepokaken — Fifteen
Palen Epokaken — Sixteen
Palen Kulvpokaken — Seventeen
Palen Cenvpokaken — Eighteen
Palen Ostvpokaken — Nineteen
Pale Hokkolen— Twenty

E	K	E	V	E	T	E	E	A	S	S	V	K	M	E	K	A	N	A	S
M	K	C	T	C	V	M	C	U	U	C	U	S	T	A	K	U	K	C	A
N	K	P	M	N	E	C	K	V	E	K	S	V	O	S	S	E	N	H	K
U	C	P	E	V	V	M	E	K	A	N	E	K	K	T	K	U	E	S	V
H	E	V	P	C	C	U	F	I	P	S	S	O	U	A	V	M	U	U	U
E	A	V	V	V	U	T	K	E	C	E	C	P	N	S	A	E	S	K	F
O	K	K	H	N	E	K	A	A	V	C	H	V	C	A	H	M	O	K	S
V	E	T	A	K	V	T	V	S	H	E	T	N	C	H	I	R	E	A	K
V	E	C	P	K	S	C	E	P	A	O	P	K	A	C	K	S	C	R	S
C	T	E	U	V	S	V	T	V	K	H	V	V	C	E	A	T	C	U	L
N	E	K	V	P	L	H	K	E	C	A	C	U	R	R	T	M	T	C	P
A	V	U	M	N	M	V	E	O	C	U	P	E	A	A	S	H	P	H	K
C	E	H	E	T	V	V	E	H	P	E	F	K	R	A	U	E	V	A	E
A	V	T	V	C	M	E	C	V	I	V	H	E	N	A	C	N	E	S	U
C	K	P	V	S	V	M	P	V	V	T	T	A	E	U	K	S	V	I	U
U	V	L	C	U	K	V	P	K	A	P	V	T	L	K	N	K	V	T	E
P	C	V	A	V	T	E	C	E	H	A	L	V	C	V	A	H	O	M	T
M	V	A	V	A	A	S	V	M	V	O	A	U	M	N	C	V	A	V	E
V	A	E	V	T	C	U	S	T	A	K	E	A	T	A	H	U	P	K	V
C	E	S	E	H	E	A	P	S	T	K	E	E	V	V	E	V	C	K	N

Inside the MNN:

Tiger Receives Award for VAWA Efforts

Page 2

Foster Care relays urgent need for parents

Page 3



Muscogee Nation News

Official publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and a production of Mvskoke Media

May 15, 2014
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"Ke Hvse"
Mulberry Month

CMN, OSUIT hold spring commencement ceremonies

Muscogee (Creek) graduates celebrate accomplishments

Amanda Rutland/*Media Specialist*



MNN/Amanda Rutland

College of the Muscogee Nation graduation attendees stand for the presentation of colors by the Mvskoke Nation Honor Guard April 25 at CMN in Okmulgee, Okla.

OKMULGEE, Okla. — April 26 marked an important day in the lives of a number of Muscogee (Creek) students from both the College of the Muscogee Nation and Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology.

This was the sixth graduating class from CMN since it was established in 2004. OSUIT President Emeritus Dr. Robert Klabenes, more commonly known as Dr. Bob, served as the keynote speaker.

Klabenes worked with CMN Regents Director of Institutional Effectiveness, Dr. James King and others to found CMN. According to Klabenes, his association with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and CMN slightly exceeds 30 years.

Klabenes remarked that CMN has a profound influence on Native American students. He said during his time as OSUIT president, enrollment of Native American students averaged 20-25 percent; however, the percentage of graduating Native students was two-three percent.

"The disconnect between Native American students who would enroll and the percentage that would graduate was heartbreaking.

I know most institutions of higher education reject the notion that if the students fail, the institution has failed; but I have always believed this. I take full responsibility for allowing many Native American students to fail under my watch," Klabenes said.

He ended his address by praising the structure of CMN.

"I have come to realize that non-tribal colleges often make cosmetic changes when structural changes are needed to better serve minority students and Native American students," Klabenes said. "The structure of this college does not allow Native American students to fail as it continues on its remarkable journey."

OSUIT and MCN have a long history together. The building that housed OSUIT was originally built as a Muscogee (Creek) orphanage around 1892.

Graduation - 2

Firm approved for Reintegration facility during Council session

Redstone Construction approved for Koweta Food Distribution Center

Kyla McKown/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A quarterly session of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council was held April 26 at the MCN Mound Building in Okmulgee.

During this session, MCN Principal Chief George Tiger gave updates on tribal entities and projects in his quarterly report.

Tiger stated that the MCN Department of Treasury has successfully engaged services with Spear's Travel, which will reduce the costs of agency services by at least 50 percent.

Merchant card services will allow for electronic card readers to be used at MCN programs to accept credit card payments.

Tiger also announced that MCN has one of the top reintegration programs in the country, and that MCN RIP was recently awarded for its excellence.

He commented on the participation of Muscogee (Creek) citizens in the push for the most recent Violence Against Women Act reauthorization, which includes provisions for individual tribes to prosecute non-Native on Native sexual violence occurring on their land.

"Muscogee (Creek) Nation was at the head of efforts to get VAWA passed," Tiger said. "It's a great feeling to see Muscogee (Creek) Nation, as its chief, see many of our people go to Washington D.C., to the Whitehouse to watch President Obama sign off on this historic law."

Tiger discussed the current endeavors of the MCN Department of Health.

Council - 7

Jacksons to headline 40th MCN Festival

Press conference held to announce events

Jessica McBride/*Editorial Assistant*



MNN/Amanda Rutland

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger discusses the 40th annual Mvskoke Nation Festival events during a press conference May 1 at the MCN owned RiverWalk business development in Jenks.

JENKS, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation hosted a press conference May 1 at the MCN owned RiverWalk business development in Jenks to announce events for the 40th annual Mvskoke Nation Festival. The Festival will take place June 26-29 in Okmulgee, Okla.

This year, live entertainment will include artists: Kix Brooks, formerly of the duo Brooks and Dunn; Diamond Rio; the Ohio Players and The Jacksons, formerly the Jackson 5. Most events will be held at the Claude A. Cox Omniplex in Okmulgee.

The Festival will also include events such as: softball and golf tournaments, The All-Indian Rodeo Finals, health fairs as well as food and art vendors.

Attendees will also receive another chance to meet two TV personalities present at last year's Festival.

"Last year and again this year by popular demand we have R.J. and Jay Paul Molinere from the 'Swamp People' coming back," MCN Tourism and Recreation Director Will Lowe said.

The Festival weekend will kick off 6 p.m., June 26 with a stompdance held on the MCN Tribal Complex.

"We like to call it the world's largest stompdance. Right now we're trying to get and reach out to the Guinness Book of World Records to see if we can truly be the world's largest stomp dance," Lowe said.

Prior to the Festival, the MCN Scholarship Pageant will be held June 7 at the River Spirit Event Center in Tulsa, Okla., along with the MCN Bass Classic set for June 15 at

Festival - 6

MvskokeMedia

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Editorials and letters must be signed by the individual writer and include a traceable address or phone number to be considered for publication.

Please contact our office for deadline of submissions to be considered for inclusion. The **Muscogee Nation News** reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style and grammar. Receipt of submissions does not obligate The **Muscogee Nation News** in any regard.

The **Muscogee Nation News** is mailed from Stigler, Okla., to all enrolled citizens' households upon request and proof of citizenship. Inquiries should be directed to Mvskoke Media. Please include your tribal enrollment number with all correspondence.

To submit a change of address or a letter to the editor, call 918 - 732 - 7720 or send e-mail to: wmurphy@mcn-nsn.gov.

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Native American Journalist Association

Members of the Native American Journalists Association

MCN hosts inaugural Earth Day event



MNN/Darren DeLaune

Hughes County Conservation District Secretary Andrea Jones spoke to students about fire danger April 22 during an event hosted by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Office of Environmental Services to observe the 44th annual Earth Day celebration at the MCN Claude A. Omniplex in Okmulgee.

Environmental Services holds demonstrations for students

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — On April 22 of each year, Earth Day is celebrated throughout the world.

This year, Muscogee (Creek) Nation Office of Environmental Services looked to further its participation by hosting an educational event in observance of the 44th annual celebration at the MCN Claude A. Cox Omniplex in Okmulgee.

"We have not been real active with our Earth Day celebrations so we are trying to get that up and going," MCN Environmental Specialist Yvette Wiley said. "So this is maybe not our first attempt, but it is our first attempt in awhile."

Students from Henryetta, Holdenville and the Stonebridge Academy were in attendance.

"This is first time we invited students," Wiley said. "This has been fun; so hopefully we can keep doing this."

Three Earth Day learning stations were setup for the students, regarding: soil painting, protecting homes and land during fire season and non-point source pollution with the enviroscape model.

Enviroscape is a hands-on model that helps people of all ages, languages and cultures, better understand the sources and prevention of water pollution through visual, hands-on interaction.

"We wanted to give the children a better understanding of how everything on earth moves and the things that can disrupt it," Hughes County Conservation District Secretary Andrea Jones said.

Later on that day, students were taken to the Okmulgee Wildlife Management Area, which is known as 'wetlands.' Located five miles west of Okmulgee, these areas are managed to provide important habitat and refuge resources to waterfowl and migratory birds.

"The more the young people are exposed to the natural world, then they will take a bigger interest in it," Wiley said.

Jones offered advice that everyone can use to help the earth.

"Everybody wants to drink more water and buy more water bottles; but what do they do with the bottles? They end up throwing them away instead of recycling. It defeats the purpose of trying to help the earth.

"Recycle the bottles or drink from your faucet. Overtime, it is a lot cheaper to use a filter and clean out the water," Jones said.

Jones also believes in setting examples for the younger generations.

"They watch us," Jones said. "If they see us recycle then they will know the good habits of doing that. It is us, the humans; that is hurting the earth. Not the animals, but us."

Oklahoma organization honors Tiger with leadership award



MNN/Amanda Rutland

Muscogee (Creek) Principal Chief George Tiger accepts the Helen Chupco Leadership Award at the Oklahoma Federation of Indian Women's Statewide Awards on May 2 at the Chickasaw Cultural Center in Sulphur, Okla.

Tiger recognized for support of VAWA

Mvskoke Media Release

SULPHUR, Okla. – Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger was selected for a prestigious leadership award by the Oklahoma Federation of Indian Women of May 2 at the Chickasaw Cultural Center.

Tiger received the Helen Chupco Leadership Award for his support of the Violence Against Women Act and also for supporting the federal act in Washington, D.C.

The leadership award goes to "someone who has been doing outstanding work in their tribe," said OFIW President Beverly Harjo.

Tiger, who served on the Muscogee (Creek) Nation's National Council with Helen Chupco several years ago, remembered Helen as a strong, positive role model for the MCN and the OFIW.

"I'm very honored and humbled to be receiving the award today, that's titled the Helen Chupco Leadership Award," Tiger said. "I'm very proud to receive this on behalf of our tribal members and on behalf of the National Council of the great Muscogee (Creek) Nation and also the (MCN) cabinet because they do a lot of great work and this is based on the work of our senior management group."

Helen Chupco was a Muscogee (Creek) citizen who was instrumental in supporting her tribe and family, according to the OFIW.

The OFIW is an organization that was formed to promote action of purpose is preserving the cultural heritage and identity of each Indian tribe and to develop ways of depicting the Indian woman as taking her place in the world today. Its objective is also "to create a bond of friendship among the members."

Graduation

Continued from Page 1

This year's OSUIT graduation ceremony was the 197th.

OSUIT President Dr. Bill Path stated during his welcome speech that student success was not measured by graduate numbers.

"At OSUIT, we feel that our job is not done when a student merely walks across stage and be handed a diploma. To us, student success is measured by how many students successfully find employment after graduation," Path said.

The graduation address was delivered by Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin, in which she told graduates how to obtain the opportunities ahead for them.

"If you work hard, dream big, take risks and never give up, you can have tremendous opportunities in your life to do whatever you want to do," Fallin said.

MCN officials visit with USDA delegates

Jessica McBride/*Editorial Assistant*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Representatives from the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and the U.S. Department of Agriculture convened April 22 at the College of the Muscogee Nation in Okmulgee.

"The USDA officials were actually in the region… in summary it was basically a meet and greet of delegates between the Nation and the United States Department of Agriculture," MCN Secretary of the Department of Interior Affairs Jeff Fife said.

Delegates from the MCN included: Jeff Fife, Principal Chief George Tiger, Secretary of the Nation Bill Fife, Small Business Development Specialist John Blue and CMN President Robert Bible.

According to Fife, MCN has had prior dealings with USDA including a USDA grant to CMN to help furnish the college student center, which is currently under construction.

Discussions also included future opportunities between MCN and USDA such as creating a conservation district to cover the entire MCN jurisdiction.

The National Council passed TR 13-185 and NCA 13-316, Dec. 21, 2013, which authorized the principal chief to work with USDA on implementing the conservation district to protect, improve and maintain natural resources and appropriated $300,000 for the undertaking.

Establishing a conservation district would help provide financial, administrative and technical assistance to land owners.

"This too, I think, will create an opportunity for land owners… to improve those properties," Fife said. "To put that in productive use; it only benefits the individual, the Nation, ultimately the community and the region."

Jeff Fife said that the continued partnership with USDA would benefit the MCN.

"I see a number of things with great potential between the Department of Commerce, our Interior Affairs," Jeff Fife said. "A lot of the opportunities the Nation has; the USDA can be a strong partner in helping us achieve certain goals."

Language teacher instructs student with a hearing impairment



MNN/Chelsie Rich
Muscogee (Creek) Nation Mvskoke Language Preservation Program teacher Rebecca Barnett helps Malakai Proctor, a student with a hearing impairment and second grader at Dustin Public Schools, learn the Muscogee (Creek) language.

Pumpunvkv Vcayecvkes, 'Let's preserve our language'

Chelsie Rich/*Project Specialist*

DUSTIN, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) Nation Mvskoke Language Preservation Program teacher, Rebecca Barnett is currently teaching the Mvskoke language to a student with a hearing impairment at Dustin Public Schools.

What Barnett thought would be a normal school year of teaching the Mvskoke language to students, turned into a new learning experience for her as well; when nine-year-old Malakai Proctor walked into her classroom.

"I realized he was deaf… I thought, 'how do I teach him; how am I going to do this?' " Barnett said.

For the first couple of months, Proctor never heard Barnett's voice as he waited for the arrival of his hearing aids.

Proctor is able to hear slightly while wearing hearing aids in both ears and can also speak some. He can also read lips and uses sign language to communicate.

Barnett noticed while teaching the class that when she said the name of an animal in Mvskoke and pointed at a picture, Proctor would sign the animal.

She then went to him, said another animal name in Mvskoke; he repeated it and signed it back again.

"He proved me wrong; he was very good at it. He repeated everything I said and signed it… he taught me to sign and I taught him Creek," Barnett said.

Proctor influenced the other Language Program teachers to learn sign language and incorporate it into their lessons.

"I think that the message he sends out is that, if he can learn; anybody can learn… if people truly want to learn the language, you can; but they have to have it in their heart," said Chumona Deere, Interim-Mvskoke Language Preservation Program Manager.

Proctor said that he loves his language class, playing basketball and playing with his friends.

Proctor and his second grade class are able to sing the alphabet as well as identify and speak numbers, colors, animals and short phrases in Mvskoke.

Barnett has taught the language for many years and is currently teaching grades pre-K-12th at Graham and Dustin Public Schools.

"I didn't realize how difficult the language was until I started teaching it… and I found out; it is very hard to learn but it can be done," Barnett said.

The Mvskoke Language Preservation Program has three teachers who teach at Mason, Ryal, Graham and Dustin Public Schools.

"We're doing everything we can to try and preserve it," Deere said.

The mission of the Mvskoke Language Program is to preserve, maintain and revitalize the language of the MCN, by connecting with tribal elders, encouraging adult citizens and teaching our children the significance of reading, writing and speaking the language of our ancestors.

For information on preserving the Mvskoke language, contact the Mvskoke Language Preservation Program at: 918-732-7724.

Also, language CD's are available for order at: www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov/Pages/Language/pdf/ordrfrmlang.pdf.

Mvskoke Opunakv Mvhayv cokv hecv hvcko espwohekat emvhayet omes

The 'Muscogee Nation News' would like to thank the Mvskoke Language Preservation Program for translating the article 'Language teacher instructs student with a hearing impairment.'

Pumpunvkv Vcayecvkes

Chelsie Rich/*Project Specialist*

DUSTIN, Okla. — Mvskoke Opunakv Vcayecvlket Em Mvhayv, Rebecca Barnett Mvkoke Opunakv Dustin Mvhakv cuko emyhiyet omes. Cepanoset enke vtekosen esoponiyet omes, poheko tayet omes.

Barnett enhvteceskv nak emyhayat estoko towvres komvte, nak mucvse kerret omvtes, Malakai Proctor ostvpaken orecoset remecvyvtes.

Barnett, rvkericat, "opunakv pohesecot omvtes cepvnosat, estomet emvhayares komet vkericvtes?"

Hvse hokkolat hueyanat, Proctor tvt Barnett opuniyat naken empohesikot omvtes hvcko espohetvn emehakof.

Proctor tat nak espohetv seyvnicet omes hvcko hokkolven heren espohekot omes momen opunakv nacomosen opuniyet omes. Nak enke ton cuk hvlpen ohoniyet omes.

Barnett nak punvttv vhakat enhuecat Proctor enken omet nak hocefhuecet omvtes.

Ohiyet, nak punvttv hocefvt, enken omet esoponiyvtes.

Barnett toket, "nak enke esoponvkv vmvhiyof vnet Mvskoke opunakv emvhayit os."

Vpvlwv mvhayvlke mo enke esoponiyetv mo kerrvkvrane tos.

Chumona Deere makat, " Este opunakvn kerretvn yacake nomat efeke ofvn like towes, estimvt kerretvn yacen omat kerrakes."

Proctor makat opunakvn vnokecet omes, pokkecetv ton en hessvlken vpvket akkopvnetvn yace towes.

Proctor ton cukv hecvlket yvhikaket nak vhvmkvtkv, nak enheckv, punvttv ton opunakv warwvkosat kerret omes.

Barnett orolope sulken emvhayet omes hopuetake lopucke ton esvhvlhvwecat Graham ton Dustin emvhiyaket omes.

Opunakv kerretv yekcet omat kerrvkates mowis emvhiyiyof yekect omes… momen mvn kerrimvts; kerretv yekect omes mowis kerrvket omes," Barnett makis.

Mvkoke Opunakv Vcayecvlke mvhiyvlke tutcenet omes mvhakv cuko Mason, Ryal, Graham, momen Dustin emvhiyaket omes.

"Esomet opunakv vciyect tayen ohyekcet omes," Deere makvtes.

Mvskoke Opunakv Vciyecvlke emvtotketv vciyecet, svpeyet, momen hvtvm soponiyetv ohvtvliyecetv komet, momen vculvke ton este omvlkvn, hopuetvke svpvken ohoniyetv, hoccicetv, ton opuniyetvn kerrvke pvten komet omes.

Naken kerretvn ceyacet omat Mvskoke Opunakv Vciyecvlke vhvmkvtkv: 918-732-7724.

Momen, oponakv nak eskerretv ocvket omes: www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov/Pages/Language/pdf/ordrfrmlang.pdf.

Foster Care relays urgent need for parents

Homes needed to move state cases to tribal courts

Jessica McBride/*Editorial Assistant*

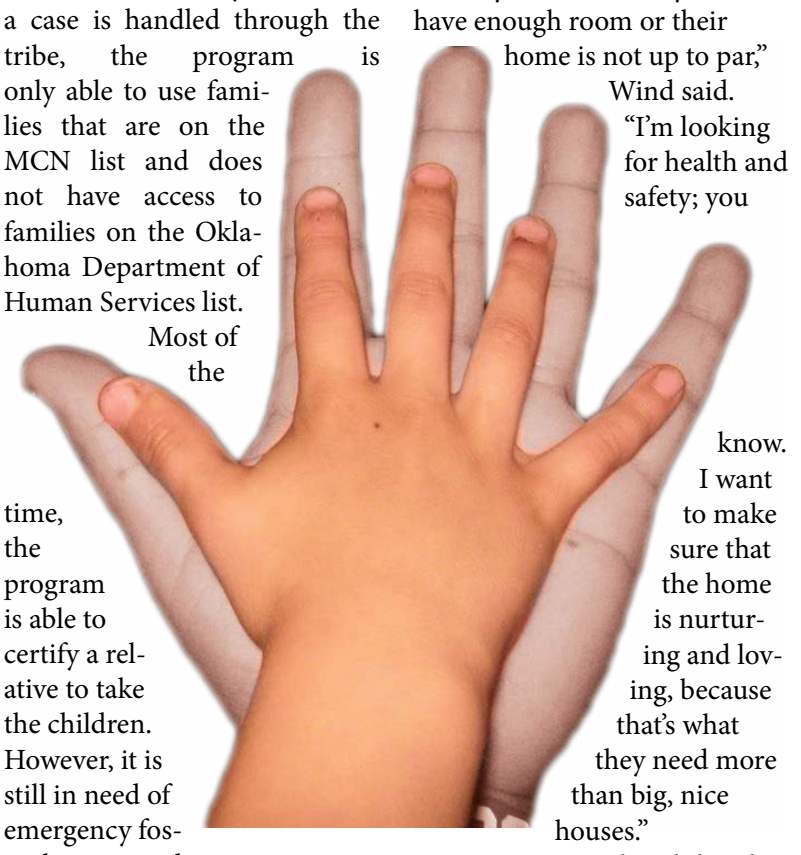
OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Foster Care and Adoption Certification and Recruitment Program has a total of seven foster families to send children who have been taken into tribal custody.

"We have seven now and four are full," MCN FCACRP Child Placement Specialist Robyn Wind said.

Wind said that the current number of available foster homes is heartbreaking.

"When we have children in tribal custody, we can't place anywhere but within our homes or the shelter… and until I can get the relative OK'd; those kids go to the shelter," Wind said.

Unlike the state system, when a case is handled through the tribe, the program is only able to use families that are on the MCN list and does not have access to families on the Oklahoma Department of Human Services list.



Most of the time, the program is able to certify a relative to take the children. However, it is still in need of emergency foster homes until the certification is complete.

Wind explained that most shelters can only take children in for a maximum of a week.

"I encourage anyone to go to a shelter and see what it's like," Wind said. "And then imagine yourself being an infant being in all those rows and only having someone to come and pick you up; you know; every couple of hours… it's not a homelike environment."

Because the shelters are limited on the time they can care for a child, the children are moved from place to place in short amounts of time. Wind believes that being moved constantly traumatizes children.

The FCACRP is able to move state cases to the MCN courts, but with few homes available for placement; the program is unable to take on state cases.

"We'd love to have more kids in tribal court because; you know; I feel like we do a better job taking care of them, but we don't have anywhere to put them," Wind said. "I get calls at least daily from the state."

According to Wind, as of April 30, approximately 200 Muscogee (Creek) children were in state custody.

The goal of the program is to provide temporary care for children in the system so that their parents can get the help that they need to begin caring for their own children.

Hilary Sadhoo, who is an attorney in the Okmulgee area and an MCN foster parent, said that she is happy to be able to care for a child temporarily so that the parents can get back on their feet.

"Every child needs to be with their parents and if I can help while they're getting their life back on track and focusing on them; then that's better for everyone," Sadhoo said.

MCN foster parent Shannon Lewis said that her favorite parts of being a foster parent are the hugs and kisses.

"I wanted to share; you know, the love and everything I have to give to every kid I could possibly give to," Lewis said.

Makesha Chiles, who has been a MCN foster parent since July 2013, said that she treats her foster children as if they were her own.

"That's what I tell the girls that are in my home right now… I'm going to fight for you just like I fight for my own and that will not ever change," Chiles said. "As long as you are in my home, you are my children."

Wind said that the requirements to become a foster parent are not extreme.

"They think that they don't have enough room or their home is not up to par," Wind said. "I'm looking for health and safety; you know. I want to make sure that the home is nurturing and loving, because that's what they need more than big, nice houses."

Wind said that the program is able to give more assistance than the state is. If a family needs a crib to care for a baby, the program can provide it.

Foster care family applicants are able to complete a preference checklist on situations they feel they can best provide for. These options include the number of children, age of children and time they are able to care for them.

The requirements for applying to become an MCN foster home include: identification documents, background checks and other verifications. The program will also conduct a home study, which is an interview process that goes over the applicant's history.

Applicants can be from any federally recognized Native American tribe. Only one provider in the home needs to have a Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood card.

Wind said that the program accepts a wide variety of Native American home situations.

"I want them all because; you know, those kids; they don't care. The just want you to love them," Wind said. "We just want them to be in tribal homes."

Wind encouraged citizens to step up because children are the future.

"Our only option is to get our own citizens; you know, because really those kids are our future and if we don't take care of them; what's going to be left?" Wind said.

For more information on the MCN Foster Care and Adoption Certification and Recruitment Program contact Robyn Wind at: 918-732-7869 or by email at: rwtiger@mcn-nsn.gov.

Muscogee (Creek) elder recognized for volunteer work



Submission
Muscogee (Creek) citizen Margaret Floyd was awarded the title of Mrs. Heritage Days 2014 and recognized April 26 at a parade in Eufaula, Okla.

'Granny Margaret' mentors children in reading

Jessica McBride/*Editorial Assistant*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Do you know 'Granny Margaret?' Muscogee (Creek) citizen Margaret Floyd has served as the matriarch of her family as well as a foster grandparent volunteer for 25 years.

Floyd is the mother of nine children and numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

86-year-old Floyd was recognized at a Oklahoma Department of Human Services Volunteer and Community Partner Day ceremony April 23 for mentoring over 150 children in Stidham and Hanna schools where she performed over 35,000 hours of volunteer work as a foster grandparent.

The foster grandparent program pairs volunteers with children and youth in the community to be a role model and mentor.

Floyd, known as 'Granny Margaret' to her foster grandchildren, emphasizes her passion for reading with each child she is assigned.

"That is what I strive for more than anything is to get those kids up to their reading level so they won't fail," Floyd said. "I love reading myself. I always have and if there is any way that I can bring a child up reading better; that really inspires me."

One of her memories involved meeting the mother of one of her foster grandchildren at the grocery store.

"She said he's always talking about 'Granny Margaret' and he just loves you," Floyd said.

In 2013 Floyd received the Ki Bois Community Action Foundation Granny of the Year award. She has received additional awards from the foundation for her years of service as a foster grandparent.

'Granny Margaret' said that the children motivate her.

"People say; 'well, you've taught them a lot,' but they've taught me a lot too," Floyd said.

Floyd, who is also Cherokee, plans to continue volunteering as a foster-grandparent 'as long as the Lord lets her.'

"I get to thinking about it and I thought; 'no, there's too many kids out there that need help,' " Floyd said. "That just keeps me going I guess."

Floyd said she has always loved children and attributes her teaching ability to her father who was a part-time schoolteacher.

On April 26, Floyd served as Mrs. Heritage Days 2014 in the parade in Eufaula, Okla. Floyd, who grew up in Eufaula, said she was honored to be chosen.

At one point in her life, Floyd said she knew everyone in town.

"I don't know as many people here now as I used to and that kind of bothers me because I've always been a friendly person," Floyd said. "I guess I'm a people person."

Shortly after her husband passed away in 1986, Floyd decided to go back to college and received an associate degree in social work and psychology from Bacone College in Muskogee, Okla.

While there, she was a housemother, in the women's choir and on the Dean's Honor Roll.

Floyd is a member of the Eufaula Indian Community and also works for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Election Board during elections. She is a member of the Wind Clan, Koweta Tribal Town and Little Coweta Indian Baptist Church.

Citizen receives prestigious fellowship



Submission
Muscogee (Creek) citizen Joy Harjo is one of two Oklahomans to receive the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship this year.

Harjo to write second memoir

Kyla McKown/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Joy Harjo is one of two Oklahomans to receive the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship this year.

She received the fellowship in the 2014 U.S. and Canada Competition in Creative Arts for general nonfiction writing.

The Guggenheim Fellowships are, "intended for men and women who have already demonstrated exceptional capacity for productive scholarship or exceptional creative ability in arts," according to the foundation website: www.gf.org.

Out of about 4,000 applications each year, Harjo was one of 177 to receive the fellowship.

Harjo, who is a musician, poet and writer; said the award is one of the most competitive in the country.

After applying each year for the fellowship for the past 20 years, Harjo said she is not sure what was different about this year.

"Well, who knows," Harjo said. "It's like you just keep trying. Some other years I thought I had competitive applications. I think you have to keep trying; and a lot of people I know apply every year."

Although she has placed a high priority on this award, she has one other award that is just as important.

"It's a great opportunity and it's probably one of the top awards I've gotten," Harjo said. "Although, the Mvskoke Women's Leadership Award is one of my favorite and made me the proudest."

This fellowship will allow one year for Harjo to work on her proposed work, which is her second memoir following 'Crazy Brave.'

"IT'S A GREAT OPPORTUNITY AND IT'S PROBABLY ONE OF THE TOP AWARDS I'VE GOTTEN."

- MUSCOGEE (CREEK) CITIZEN JOY HARJO

The memoir will touch on indigenous rights, Mvskoke history, Harjo's family history and her own story.

Harjo will attend the reception in New York City and looks forward to working on the memoir throughout the year.

Harjo said she believes that if she can become successful coming from her past; it is possible for anyone.

"For our Mvskoke artists, it's very difficult trying to make a living doing your art," Harjo said. "Artists are important. They carry forth the vision of what it means to be human; what it means to be Mvskoke. Yet it's one of the professions that's becoming least respected."




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Citizen develops new take on fishing device



MNN/Darren DeLaune
Muscogee (Creek) citizen Tiger Carman holds a 14-pound blue catfish, caught with his newly invented fishing flotation device called Tiger Jugz, at Grand Lake near Grove, Okla.

Tiger Jugz hit store shelves

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

GROVE, Okla. — There are all types of fishing: angling, net fishing, spear fishing and jug fishing to name a few. Each of these attempts to make the sport as effective as possible.

For that same reason, a new invention has been developed that can be used by any level of fisherman. The product, now hitting store shelves, is called Tiger Jugz.

It is used for jug fishing, which is an unlimited class tackle method that uses lines suspended from floating jugs to catch fish in lakes or rivers. Often, a large number of jugs are used when jug fishing.

Tiger Jugz enhances this more relaxed form of fishing by overturning when they get a bite. This is in contrast to traditional jugs where fishermen have to watch for a bob in the jugs or pull them up once in awhile to look for a catch.

Tiger Jugz, was invented by Muscogee (Creek) citizen Tiger Carman.

"I wanted to make this type of flotation device for jug fishing that everyone can do," Carman said. "Everyone from the grandmother to the four-year-old to be able to handle Tiger Jugz and have a blast doing it."

Carman wanted to take away the headache that came with jug fishing.

"Every jug that I have used; there is always something wrong," Carman said. "Well after all this time; I wanted to do what I can and make it easier for anyone who likes to fish."

Carman's grandfather Dave Brierley provided helpful critique during the development of Tiger Jugz to help him improve the device. When Carman thought he was ready to put Tiger Jugz on the shelf, Brierley would question certain parts of the flotation device.

"There was a certain problem with the jugs and if it was not for those problems being mentioned; Tiger Jugz would not be as great as it is now," Carman said. "I thought it was real good but when he said that; it made it better when I fixed the problem, so I give all credit to him."

Currently, Tiger Jugz are sold in two stores in the Grove, Okla., area. One of the stores, Grand Lake Sports Center, has seen Tiger Jugz flying off the shelves.

Storeowner Sam Williams spoke about the product.

"I have not had them on my shelves that long," Williams said. "They are being sold as soon as they get put on the shelves though."

Williams feels that Carman has taken jug fishing up a notch.

"With these types of jugs for the jug fishing; it has a handle on it that helps out everyone who is using this product," Williams said. "With that handle, it does so much more and makes it so much easier for everyone to be able to fish and have a great time doing it."

Tiger Jugz is currently in patent pending. Carman thinks it will take about 18 months for completion.

"The patent does take a little while," Carman said. "But while I am waiting, I am suppose to be selling for a certain amount of time and that is what I am doing. I want to make it successful even before I get the patent."

For more information on Tiger Jugz, contact Tiger Carman at: 918-978-0036.

Festival

Continued from Page 1

Lake Eufaula in Eufaula, Okla.

This year, the City of Okmulgee made a contribution to the event.

"For the first time in the history of our Festival, the mayor and city council donated a nice financial commitment to us," MCN Principal Chief George Tiger said.

According to MCN Mvskoke Media Interim Director Edwin Marshall, the City of Okmulgee donated $15,000 to the Mvskoke Nation Festival.

Marshall also stated that there might be additional announcements regarding potential Festival events.

"After May the 15th, we'll be making another big announcement of possibly another activity with the Festival," Marshall said.

Tiger spoke about the history of the event.

"We started out with about three or four different activities back in 1975 and this year, in our 40th annual; we have about 25 plus numbers of events that we hold," Tiger said.

For more information on the Festival visit: www.creek-festival.com or contact the MCN Tourism and Recreation Department at: 918-732-7992.

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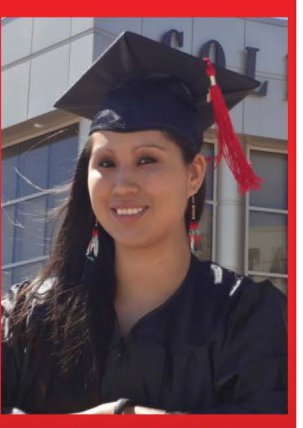
The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Higher Education Scholarship Foundation
Program is now accepting scholarship applications for the Fall 2014 semester.

Deadline is June 6, 2014.

Applications can be found at
creeknationfoundation.org

For questions please call

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Marissa Parker

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Council

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"As you know, many surgeries are referred to different places," Tiger said. "Finally, we're able to recruit and bring back to the Nation. We're going to be saving money and having surgeries done at our facilities. It's a big step in being able to provide good healthcare."

Following Tiger's report, the Council addressed the following legislation:

• TR 14-019 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a lease agreement with the Okemah Economic Development Authority. Rep. Dode Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

• TR 14-039 Approving the MCN Long Range Transportation Plan with the addition of routes identified in the Long Range Transportation Plan. Rep. Mark Randolph sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

• TR 14-040 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a separate memorandum of understanding with nine Oklahoma counties for the maintenance of roadways, bridges and associated rights-of-way constructed or improved by the MCN Tribal Transportation Program. Randolph sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

• TR 14-041 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a customer application and committed portfolio participation agreement on behalf of the Department of Health with McKesson Corporation and MedAssets Supply Chain System LLC. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

• TR 14-042 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement between the MCN, City of Okemah, Okfuskee County and the Oklahoma Department of Transportation for the expenditure of funds for the purchase of a pedestrian bridge for the City of Okemah. Reps. Mitch Jack and Frank Coachman sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

• TR 14-043 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a transfer agreement between the MCN and the U.S., acting through the Indian Health Service. Rep. Darrell Proctor sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

• TR 14-044 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a transfer agreement between the MCN, the U.S., The Okfuskee County Rural Water District #2 and the City of Muskogee. Proctor sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

• TR 14-045 Authorizing the principal chief to execute an application for credit with Bimbo Bakeries USA Inc. on behalf of MCNDH. Rep. Lucian Tiger sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

• TR 14-046 Authorizing the principal chief on behalf of MCNDH to execute a business associate agreement and facility authorization request with the Oklahoma State Department of Health. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

• TR 14-047 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a rental agreement for linen rental services with Superior Linen Service for the MCNDH. Tiger sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

• TR 14-048 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a bankcard merchant membership application and merchant agreement with Transfund for credit card merchant services at the MCN. Rep. Pete Beaver sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

• TR 14-049 Authorizing the Gaming Operations Authority Board to transfer surplus firearms and ammunition to the MCN Lighthorse Department for proper storage and/or disposal. Rep. Robert Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

• TR 14-050 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a contract on behalf of the Reintegration Program with One Architecture LLC for the construction of a regional transitional living facility. Rep. Johnnie Greene sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

• TR 14-051 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a standard form of agreement between the MCN and Redstone Construction Services for the construction of the Koweta Food Distribution Center. Randolph sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

• TR 14-052 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a standard form of agreement between the owner and design-builder with G.S.E. Construction Inc. for the design construction of the Wilson Indian Community Activity Center. Greene sponsored the resolution, which passed 13-1 with Rep. David Nichols voting against it.

• TR 14-053 Adopting a housing assistance policy for use with Indian Housing Block Grant Funding. Tiger sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

• TR 14-054 Authorizing the execution of Federal Transit Administration fiscal year 2014 certifications and assurances. Nichols sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

• TR 14-055 Authorizing GOAB to execute a franchise agreement with Johnny Rockets Licensing LLC and contract with Manhattan/Redstone for renovations necessary to operate a Johnny Rockets Restaurant at River Spirit Casino. Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

• TR 14-056 Authorizing GOAB to execute an agreement with renovations by Hems Inc. for the renovation of the MCN Duck Creek Casino. Hufft sponsored the resolution, which is postponed until the May regular session.

• TR 14-057 Authorizing GOAB to execute a contract for electric service with Public Service of Oklahoma for electric services to RSC. Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

• TR 14-058 Authorizing the principal chief to execute an attorney attachment to the Compact of Self-Governance by and between the MCN and the U.S. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

• NCA 14-030 Authorizing a donation to the Rural Water, Sewer, Solid Waste Management District #3, Seminole County, Oklahoma. Jack and Coachman sponsored the amendment, which passed 13-1 with Barnett voting against it.

• NCA 14-041 Authorizing a $500 donation to the Heartland Heritage Center. Rep. Shirlene Ade sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

• NCA 14-045 Creating a new chapter under MCN Code Annotated Title 37, entitled: The Campaign Finance Disclosure Act and to establish a Public Officials Ethics Commission. Reps. David Hill, Nichols, Coachman and Tiger sponsored the amendment, which is postponed until the June regular session.

• NCA 14-049 Authorizing the $3,500 expenditure of grant funds awarded to the MCN Department of Housing from the Oklahoma Native Assets Coalition First Nations Development Institute. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

• NCA 14-050 Authorizing a $2,000 donation to Wes Watkins Technology Center. Ade sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

• NCA 14-051 Authorizing a special appropriation of $884.05 to a Muscogee (Creek) student. Nichols sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

• NCA 14-052 Authorizing a supplemental appropriation of $56,298.94 to the Senior Services Department FY 2014 budget. Tiger sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

• NCA 14-053 Authorizing a $5,000 donation to the MCN Youth Rodeo Association. Rep. Adam Jones sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

• NCA 14-054 Authorizing a special appropriation of $2,300 for unpaid funeral services of a Muscogee (Creek) citizen. Rep. Thomas Yahola sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

• NCA 14-055 Repealing MCNCA Title 4, Sections 1-101 and 1-104 and creating the Tribal Burial Assistance and Food for Funeral Program under MCNCA Title 35, Chapter 13. Reps. James Jennings, Hill and Greene sponsored the amendment, which passed 13-0 with Randolph abstaining.

• NCA 14-056 Authorizing a supplemental appropriation of $321,930 to the MCN Social Services Department Tribal Burial and Food for Funeral Program FY 2014 budget. Jennings sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

• NCA 14-057 Authorizing a $2,500 donation to the Native Youth Prevention Diabetes Program. Hufft, Barnett, Coachman and Ade sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

• NCA 14-058 Authorizing a special appropriation of $1,492.48 to a Muscogee (Creek) college student. Coachman sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

Ade was absent.



MNN/Kyla McKown

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger gave his quarterly report during the MCN National Council quarterly session April 26 at the Mound Building in Okmulgee, Okla.



MCN Community and Tribal Events

CLE Seminar set for May 15-16

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The 12th Annual Continuing Legal Education Seminar is set for May 15-16 from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the River Spirit Event Center in Tulsa, Okla.

For more information contact 918-758-1400.

Revival set for May 18-21

EUFAULA, Okla. — A revival is set for May 18-21 at Okfuskee Baptist Church in Eufaula starting at 7 p.m. nightly.

The speaker will be Jimmy Anderson and the music directors will be Jim and Sonya Davis.

For a ride call Colbert at: 918-490-3408 or Pastor Carr at: 918-881-0300.

Spring Revival set for May 19-23

SAPULPA, Okla. — A spring revival is set for 7 p.m., May 19-23 at Little Cussetah Indian Baptist Church.

Tim Coon is the featured speaker and everyone is welcome to attend.

Memorial gathering set for May 24

EUFAULA, Okla. — A memorial gathering is set for May 24 at West Eufaula Indian Baptist Church three miles southwest of Eufaula. The event will begin at 10 a.m. with a potluck dinner at 1 p.m.

Activities will include: games, a sword drill competition, songs, stories and photos.

For more information call Jon at: 918-850-3806 or Judy at: 918-689-6173.

Family reunion set for May 24

MUSKOGEE, Okla. — The annual Wacoche family reunion is set for 1 p.m., May 24 at the Wacoche Building at Bacone College in Muskogee. The event will feature a potluck meal. Please bring a side dish, dessert or drink along with pictures and stories.

For more information contact Ann Lindsey at: 918-948-4588.

Jim Thorpe Games set for June 8-14

SHAWNEE, Okla. — The third annual Jim Thorpe Native American games are set for June 8-14 at different venues throughout Shawnee.

For more information about the games call: 405-208-9253 or info@jimthorpegames.com or visit their website at: www.jimthorpegames.com.

MCN Food Distribution Reschedule Notice

MCN FD/*Media Release*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Food Distribution Program tailgate sites have been rescheduled. This will be for the month of June only.

June 17 Coweta 8:30 –10:30a.m.

June 18 Eufaula 9:30 –10:30a.m.

June 19 Bristow 8:30 –10:30a.m.

The Okmulgee store will remain open from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., Monday–Friday. The store is closed the last two working days of the month. For more information you may contact MCN Food Distribution at: 918-549-2401.

MCN trolley service now available

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Transit Department trolley service is now available. The trolley service is a fixed route and will not make additional stops. A shuttle will be provided if the trolley is being used for other activities. The following is a list of the trolley service weekday stops in Okmulgee. The final stop each day will be at the MCN Travel Plaza.

Poloske Circle	6 a.m.	7:30 a.m.	9 a.m.	10:30 a.m.	12 p.m.	1:30 p.m.	3 p.m.	5:07 p.m.
Phillip Coon	6:02 a.m.	7:32 a.m.	9:02 a.m.	10:32 a.m.	12:02 p.m.	1:32 p.m.	3:02 p.m.	5:09 p.m.
Wright Circle	6:05 a.m.	7:35 a.m.	9:05 a.m.	10:35 a.m.	12:05 p.m.	1:35 p.m.	3:05 p.m.	5:12 p.m.
One Fire Casino	6:10 a.m.	7:40 a.m.	9:10 a.m.	10:40 a.m.	12:10 p.m.	1:40 p.m.	3:10 p.m.	5:17 p.m.
CMN	6:15 a.m.	7:45 a.m.	9:15 a.m.	10:45 a.m.	12:15 p.m.	1:45 p.m.	3:15 p.m.	5:22 p.m.
OSU/S. Union	6:20 a.m.	7:50 a.m.	9:20 a.m.	10:50 a.m.	12:20 p.m.	1:50 p.m.	3:20 p.m.	5:27 p.m.
Crutchmer Apts.	6:25 a.m.	7:54 a.m.	9:25 a.m.	10:54 a.m.	12:25 p.m.	1:54 p.m.	3:25 p.m.	5:32 p.m.
Taylor Apts.	6:29 a.m.	7:57 a.m.	9:29 a.m.	10:57 a.m.	12:29 p.m.	1:57 p.m.	3:29 p.m.	5:35 p.m.
MCN Clinic	6:35 a.m.	8:03 a.m.	9:35 a.m.	11:03 a.m.	12:35 p.m.	2:03 p.m.	3:35 p.m.	5:40 p.m.
Wal-Mart	6:38 a.m.	8:06 a.m.	9:38 a.m.	11:06 a.m.	12:38 p.m.	2:06 p.m.	3:38 p.m.	5:50 p.m.
Warehouse Mkt./Wood St.	6:40 a.m.	8:09 a.m.	9:40 a.m.	11:09 a.m.	12:40 p.m.	2:09 p.m.	3:40 p.m.	5:55 p.m.
YMCA	6:48 a.m.	8:17 a.m.	9:48 a.m.	11:17 a.m.	12:48 p.m.	2:17 p.m.	3:48 p.m.	6:00 p.m.
Warehouse Mkt./8th St.	6:50 a.m.	8:19 a.m.	9:50 a.m.	11:19 a.m.	12:50 p.m.	2:19 p.m.	3:50 p.m.	6:03 p.m.
MCN Council House	6:53 a.m.	8:22 a.m.	9:53 a.m.	11:22 a.m.	12:53 p.m.	2:22 p.m.	3:53 p.m.	6:05 p.m.
Public Library	6:56 a.m.	8:25 a.m.	9:56 a.m.	11:25 a.m.	12:56 p.m.	2:25 p.m.	3:56 p.m.	6:07 p.m.
Post Office	6:59 a.m.	8:28 a.m.	9:59 a.m.	11:28 a.m.	12:59 p.m.	2:28 p.m.	3:59 p.m.	6:10 p.m.
Sunny Stop	7:04 a.m.	8:33 a.m.	10:04 a.m.	11:33 a.m.	1:04 p.m.	2:33 p.m.	4:04 p.m.	6:15 p.m.
Travel Plaza	7:10 a.m.	8:38 a.m.	10:10 a.m.	11:38 a.m.	1:10 p.m.	2:38 p.m.	4:10 p.m.	6:20 p.m.
MCN Complex	7:15 a.m.	8:43 a.m.	10:15 a.m.	11:43 a.m.	1:15 p.m.	2:43 p.m.	4:15 p.m.	5:05 p.m.
MCN Transit	CLOSED	8:45 a.m.	10:25 a.m.	11:45 a.m.	1:25 p.m.	2:45 p.m.	4:25 p.m.	CLOSED

MCN SRO May schedule

MCN SRO/*Media Release*

WETUMKA, Okla. — The following is the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Southern Regional Office schedule for the remainder of May.

May 20 - Tax Commission
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Lunch 11-11: 30 a.m.
TERO 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

May 23 - WIC
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

May 26 - Closed for Memorial Day

May 27 - Tax Commission
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Lunch 11-11: 30 a.m.
TERO 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

For more information, contact the MCN SRO at: 405-452-1155.

MVTO

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Raymond Harjo was honored with a gathering held April 19 at the Okmulgee Senior Nutrition Center to celebrate his 87th birthday.

Ray and his family would like to express our thanks to all those who made this event possible: the facility staff; those who arranged for and helped with setup and clean up; those who brought food and all who attended.

Many took the time from their very busy Easter weekend activities and some came from a very long distance. It was a wonderful time of fellowship with several generations of families in attendance who brought home the importance of family togetherness.

Thank you one and all.

CORRECTION

The word search that ran in the May 1 edition of the 'Muscogee Nation News,' which featured numbers, was mistakenly switched with the puzzle from a previous edition.

The MNN regrets this error and will be sending all puzzles back to the Mvskoke Language Preservation Program for screening prior to publication to avoid future errors.

— Sterling Cosper, MNN Editor

Court of Honor Held by BSA Troop 425



Submission

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Este Cate Boy Scouts of America Troop 435 presented Assistant Scoutmaster Preston Marshall with an honorary carved walking stick during its Court of Honor in recognition of his service to the troop as a U.S. Marine.

From left to right: Preston Marshall and his sons, Life Scout Garrett Marshall and Second Class Scout Wesley Marshall.

A crossword puzzle from the Mvskoke Language Preservation Program: *Nature*

Eto-Pokkuce — Bush
Fakke — Dirt
Aktopv — Bridge
Aklowvhe — Mud
Cvpofv — Field
Hotvle — Wind
Vtokyehatte — Lightning
Oske — Rain
Kolaswv — Star
Hvresse — Moon
Vholoce — Cloud
Hopere — Fog
Oske Entacv —Rainbow
Akhvse — Pond
Pvhe — Grass

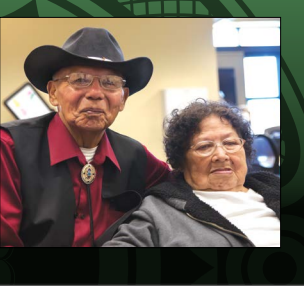
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C	I	V	P	C	P	F	H	E	S	V	P	O	F	C	O	K	C	T	O
E	A	R	E	T	E	E	O	A	P	H	K	A	P	O	R	E	K	P	F

Inside the MNN:

Citizen credits academic success to MCN assistance — Page 4

Proctor says goodbye to MCN — Page 7





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Groundbreaking ceremony held for Creek Nation Community Hospital

80 acres to hold new 120,000 square foot facility

Kyla McKown/*MNN Reporter*



Courtesy MCNDH

A groundbreaking ceremony was held May 16 for the new 120,000 square foot Muscogee (Creek) Nation Community Hospital in Okemah, Okla.

OKEMAH, Okla. — May 16 marked a proud day for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation as a groundbreaking ceremony was held for the new MCN Community Hospital in Okemah.

"Today has certainly been a long journey," MCN Principal Chief George Tiger said. "I can remember some of us under this tent; when we first attempted to operate and own the Okemah Hospital."

"We held hearings back in the mid-'70s, and at that time; we knew we could do things a little bit better than IHS."

MCN Department of Health Secretary Lt. Cmdr. Seneca Smith said the current Okemah Hospital has worked with a limited amount of space to provide service to patients from the surrounding areas.

"Services continue to be restricted due to lack of facility space and design," Smith said. "With this historic data in mind, we recognize an unmet need and knew we'd have to double in size for current and future need."

The current facility has been expanded by about 32,000 square feet and provides service to 80,475 registered living patients.

The hospital has 170 employees who help about 955 patients each month.

MCNDH kept its five guiding principals in mind when planning for the new facility, which include: accessibility to care, culture, the customer, customer care, staff and partnership.

The new facility will include: five fast-track rooms, six treatment rooms, one bariatric treatment room, two operating rooms, five pre-operation exam rooms, 20 clinic exam rooms and an emergency department, which will feature two trauma rooms.

The facility will also provide

Okemah - 4

Oklahoma Capitol hosts Muscogee (Creek) Nation Day

Employees promote tradition, programs

Jessica McBride/*Editorial Assistant*



MNN/Amanda Rutland

Programs and departments from the Muscogee (Creek) Nation travelled to Oklahoma City May 14 to distribute information for MCN Day at the Oklahoma State Capitol building.

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Oklahoma State Capitol welcomed the Nation May 14 for Muscogee (Creek) Nation Day in Oklahoma City.

MCN was invited by Rep. Dan Kirby to set up booths in the Capitol building and display tribal programs to congressional leaders, employees and visitors.

Kirby said that he was proud to celebrate his tribe.

"Well as you know, I am a citizen and being proud of my tribe; I wanted to share with the people at the capitol," Kirby said. "It just brings awareness to some of the things the tribe's trying to do and what they have to offer."

Rep. Jerry McPeak, who is also a Muscogee (Creek) citizen, said that it is important to him for MCN to be represented so that people can see that the Nation is a valuable economic force.

"They don't understand how much impact we make in the state… they have no idea of the businesses that we're in," McPeak said.

LuAnn Bear, MCN Public Relations Administrative Assistant and event coordinator, said that it is important to raise awareness about the things the tribe is doing.

"And since Chief Tiger has been in office, we've had so many things happen; so many new things. It's time to call attention to all of this," Bear said.

According to Bear, this is the first time MCN has been invited to celebrate a day in the Nation's honor.

MCN PR also encouraged employees to wear traditional clothing during the event.

"We really asked that everybody be in Creek clothing if possible… We wanted to show who we are, and that draws a lot of attention to us," Bear said.

State Rep. Jerry Shoemake recognized MCN during an Oklahoma State House of Representatives session. Shoemake represents District 16, which includes Okmulgee, Okla.

Phillip Deere roundhouse construction approved during Council session

Appropriation passes for Phillip Coon biography

Kyla McKown/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A regular session of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council was held May 17 at the MCN Mound Building in Okmulgee.

The Council addressed the following legislation:

- TR 14-056 Authorizing the Gaming Operations Authority Board to execute an agreement with Renovations by Helms Inc. for the renovation of the MCN Duck Creek Casino. Rep. Robert Hufft sponsored the resolution, which was postponed until the June regular session.
- TR 14-059 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a software systems agreement with AirWatch LLC. On behalf of the MCN Department of Health. Rep. Johnnie Greene sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.
- TR 14-060 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement between the MCN and the City of Checotah for the expenditure of funds for the preparation of plans, specifications, engineer's estimate and construction of the walking trail project at the Checotah Sports Complex. Rep. Mark Randolph sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.
- TR 14-061 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement between the MCN and Okmulgee County for the expenditure of funds for the preparation of plans, specifications, engineer's estimate and construction of the Twin Hills Road Project. Randolph spon-

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MvskokeMedia

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NAJA
Native American Journalist Association

Members of the Native American Journalists Association

Elders participate in 2014 Senior Games and Symposium



MNN/Chelsie Rich
Muscogee (Creek) elders participated in the 2014 Senior Games and Symposium May 9 at the Claude A. Cox Omniplex in Okmulgee, Okla.

Tiger proclaims May as Native American Elders Month

Kyla McKown/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — In observance of Native American Elders Month in May, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Senior Services, Elderly Nutrition and Diabetes Program partnered to host the 2014 Senior Games and Symposium.

More than 150 Muscogee (Creek) elders gathered for the event May 9 at the Claude A. Cox Omniplex in Okmulgee. The theme this year was, 'Safe today, healthy tomorrow.'

MCN Principal Chief George Tiger proclaimed May as Native American Elders Month for the MCN and recognized all 16,941 Muscogee (Creek) elders as, 'treasured resources.'

The event featured TV anchor and crime reporter, Lori Fullbright from News Channel 6 of Tulsa, as the guest speaker.

Fullbright discussed the current crime trends in the area and suggested that elders always pay at the pump and be aware of their surroundings in grocery store parking lots.

She also stressed that elders should practice identifying and describing people in every day life.

"It's important as citizens to help our law enforcement by being able to describe a suspect in detail," Fullbright said. "When something happens so quickly, you don't know what they look like."

After the symposium, elders participated in a free throw contest, horseshoes, beanbag toss, softball throw and jacks.

To participate in the competition, elders must be at least 55-years-old and an enrolled citizen.

Medals were given out to those who placed first, second and third in the men's and women's divisions of each competition.

MCN Senior Services Manager David Dunson said events like these are exactly what the elders need.

"It's a chance to socialize and it's important that they get out just to associate with other elders in the communities," Dunson said.

He believes it is also a chance for elders to bring their families to the games as a way to meet relatives through fellowship.

Senior Services holds Senior Meetings on the first Wednesday of every month at the Okmulgee Nutrition Center at 10 a.m.

The meetings feature guest speakers from various MCN entities who discuss current issues related to the elders.

"We've had about every department here within the Nation come talk," Dunson said. "We also have funeral homes come in. Not to be morbid, but it's a fact of life and we try to get them to prepare their wills. We've had the attorney general's office come over and talk about the importance of wills."

The meetings, which usually have about 40 to 50 in attendance, come from all 11 counties within the MCN jurisdiction.

It's also a chance to learn about upcoming events and trips.

"A lot of our elders haven't been out of the counties; much less out of the state," Dunson said. "So we expose them to quite a bit and it's a good time. They get on there, meet people and have a good time."

Senior Services recently took 46 elders to the Bicentennial Commemoration for the Battle of Horseshoe Bend in Davison, Ala.

The department offers a number of services to citizens within the tribal jurisdiction, including: lawn mowing, domestic upkeep, pastoral care and any small fixes around the house.

This spring, the department is offering to spray houses for insects as part of a pilot project.

For more information about the Senior Services Department, call Christy Carson at: 918-732-7765.

MCN District Court hosts CLE seminar



MNN/Amanda Rutland
Alabama-Quassarte Ceremonial Ground Mekko Robert Yargee discussed the history of Muscogee (Creek) tribal towns and traditional law during the Doing Business in Indian Country Continuing Legal Education seminar May 15 at the River Spirit Event Center in Tulsa, Okla.

Presenters discuss Muscogee (Creek) history, laws

Jessica McBride/*Editorial Assistant*

TULSA, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court hosted the 12th annual Doing Business in Indian Country Continuing Legal Education seminar May 15-16 at the River Spirit Event Center in Tulsa.

The CLE is intended for attorneys with the Oklahoma Bar Association and others who deal with the legal aspects of MCN to learn about the Nation's laws and keep them updated on current legal issues in Indian Country.

The seminar was approved by the OBA to offer 12 hours of CLE credit, which is required to maintain an OBA membership.

MCN District Court Judge Gregory Bigler said that attorneys should know the laws and history of the court where they are practicing.

"The founding purpose of course is to get the attorneys who may be practicing in tribal court there at Okmulgee, familiarity with various requirements of the court of the Nation and so forth," Bigler said. "We want to try and help them fulfill that and educate them about the specifics of our courts and laws instead of simply taking generic CLEs."

Seminar presenters came from around the U.S. and MCN.

This year, the CLE concentrated on the history of Muscogee (Creek) law.

"We're very proud of our traditions and customs that come back from even before removal… and they still play a role within the Creek Nation," Bigler said. "This year we're focusing a little bit upon the traditional element in particular, because it's the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Horseshoe Bend."

To accomplish this, ceremonial ground Mekkos were invited to speak at the seminar.

"I really wanted to have their voices heard… Those Mekkos have a wealth of knowledge. They have an understanding of our culture and our history," Bigler said.

Hickory Ceremonial Ground Mekko and MCN Supreme Court Justice George Thompson and Alabama-Quassarte Ceremonial Ground Mekko Robert Yargee spoke on topics including: tribal towns, ceremonial grounds, traditional MCN law and keeping traditional MCN practices in a contemporary environment.

"The Creator, he gave us four laws to live by… you know; you've got to have love and faith, be happy and humble; and that's what we try to live by on the grounds," Yargee said.

Other presenters spoke about MCN history, treaties and tribal court procedures.

MCN Assistant Attorney General Kevin Dellinger spoke about the 1867, 1979 and 2009 MCN Constitutions.

"It's important to know what's in our constitution; I think from a business perspective," Dellinger said.

New website to promote events, tourism

Amanda Rutland/*Media Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tourism and Recreation Department partnered with the Cultural Center and Archives department for a website that highlights offerings of the Nation.

Cultural Center and Archives Specialist Projects Coordinator and Development Officer Chris Azbell said the website is set to launch June 1. The departments are utilizing the TERO certified company The C3 Group.

Azbell explained that the new website will be completely separate from the main Muscogee (Creek) Nation site; however, limited event information will still be available on the Nation's main site.

"The idea of going through the nation's website and seeing the tourism page it's going to be gone. It's going to highlight everything that we have for Creek Nation," Azbell said.

Tourism and Recreation Department Project Specialist Brian On-The-Hill said the new website would allow anyone to find tourism related information more efficiently.

"Not that we don't mention the Nation's website as well," On-The-Hill said. "We have a lot of things going on that people aren't aware of and the historical sites of significance, festivals; anything that we might have going on of significance. They can easily find it on our website."

The web address has not been made official at this time.

Project Launch holds Children's Mental Health Awareness event

Tiger makes awareness proclamation for MCN

Kyla McKown/*MNN Reporter*



MNN/Chelsie Rich
Muscogee (Creek) Nation Project LAUNCH Young Child Wellness Expert Tamara Newcomb spoke at the MCN Children's Mental Health Awareness event May 6 at the MCN Mound Building in Okmulgee, Okla.

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) Nation Behavioral Health Project LAUNCH, which stands for Linking Actions for Unmet Needs in Children's Health, held its first Children's Mental Health Awareness event May 6 at the MCN Mound Building.

The event included guest speaker Project LAUNCH Young Child Wellness Expert Tamara Newcomb, whose presentation focused on infant mental health.

The Project LAUNCH grant has funded the MCN for two years now and is part of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. The program has five strategies, which include: enhancing home visitations, further developing screening assessments across the community, family strengthening and integrating behavioral health into primary care.

The grant focuses on public health promotion and prevention for children up to 8-years-old.

In the presentation, Newcomb pointed out possible warning signs to look for in infants, who may be suffering from mental health disorders.

There are a number of signs to look for in children ages six months and younger, including: the inability to read signals, persistent sleep problems, failure to imitate sounds and gestures and lack of stranger anxiety by eight months.

Project LAUNCH's Young Child Wellness Partner Erica Ridgley explained this years' focus on education regarding the earliest days of a child's life.

"It's important because we want caregivers and parents to be able to realize when children are into distress and bring kids in early to get services and identify any development skills," Ridgley said.

She said because of new science and research, mental health professionals have been able to make discoveries regarding infant brain functioning.

"Creek Nation has never done anything over infant mental health and it's good information to give to community members," Ridgley said. "It's a good thing for parents to think about mental health at really early ages. That's when it has the most impact."

Project LAUNCH is also offering a program, The Incredible Years, which is an evidence-based curriculum that allows MCN staff to set up closed groups for families, which focus on building a bond between the parent and child.

The service is offered free to Muscogee (Creek) citizens. Groups can be stationed throughout the MCN jurisdiction as long as a group of six or more sign up. The meetings are held once a week for about two hours.

"We teach you how to play with your child and as we build relationships. We get to focus on discipline strategies.

"A lot of times, parents make the mistake of implementing strategies that don't work. For instance, they may not understand the connection with their behavior and the consequence," Ridgley said.

The Incredible Years courses are divided between classes for those with preschool age children and those with infants and toddlers.

Ridgley also heads up the MCN Tribal Child and Youth Coalition, which is open to anyone.

The coalition's mission statement is, "to increase child wellness, promote responsible parenting and ensure that children are thriving in a safe, supportive and healthy environments."

The TCYC holds monthly meetings at MCN Head Start located on the MCN Tribal Complex in Okmulgee, Okla. The next meetings will be held May 27 and June 24 from 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

For more information about Project LAUNCH or to RSVP for the next TCYC meeting, contact Ridgley at: 918-224-9307.

Murrow Home to start mentor program



MNN/Darren DeLaune
Inter-Tribal Council of AT&T Employees National President Margo Bernath and Associate Project Manager Don Eckoff (right) presents Executive Director of the Murrow Indian Children's Home Betty Martin (middle) with a check for $5,000 for their new elder foster grandparent program.

Children's Home receive funding from AT&T group

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

MUSKOGEE, Okla. — An honor was given May 2 to the Murrow Indian Children's Home.

Representatives from the Inter-Tribal Council of AT&T Employees came to Muskogee to present a $5,000 check to the children's home to help start a new program.

"This program is for the elder foster grandparent program which is going to help provide emotional and cultural stability for the kids that live here in the Murrow Indian Children's Home," Inter-Tribal Council of AT&T Employees National President Margo Bernath said.

While the council does not represent the company, it does represent AT&T employees who have Native American heritage or who show interest in the council.

The foster grandparent program is volunteer-based and focuses on uniting generations by allowing senior citizens to have an active role in foster children's lives.

For the Children's Home, this focus will be of Native elders. Any foster grandparent can come, volunteer and help the children learn more about their culture.

"We tried to have a program similar to this one that we are going to be starting," Murrow Indian Children's Home Executive Director Betty Martin said. "While it was a good program, most of the people were non-Native; so we wanted to change that to help our kids get more involved with their culture."

The goal is to help the children to establish an emotional attachment with another individual and be able to carry that on into the future.

There will be pre and post surveys for the children that are involved in the program. Murrow personnel want to see how knowledgeable the children are about their culture at the beginning and again at the end of the program to measure effectiveness.

"This program will cover many things," Martin said. "The children that come here do have some attachment disorder in some way. This will address those issues and be able to help the children be able to develop a connection with someone."

The check will help with supplies the foster grandparents will need for this program.

The foster grandparent program is set to begin around June. This will be an on-going interactive activity that will continue for as long as possible.



Citizen credits academic success to MCN assistance



Submission

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Vanessa Del Angel (left) was commissioned May 9 in Norman, Okla., as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force to serve as a logistics readiness officer. She is seen here with her sister Victoria Del Angel (right).

Del Angel joins Air Force after graduation

Kyla McKown*/MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Vanessa Del Angel walked across the stage May 9 as a University of Oklahoma graduate with a bachelor's degree in sociology. The same day, she was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force to serve as a logistics readiness officer.

Del Angel expressed her gratitude to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation executive and legislative branches for financial assistance throughout her college career.

"I'd sincerely like to thank Creek Nation for assistance at a time I wouldn't have continued on one semester in financial hardships," Del Angel said.

Del Angel, who grew up a 'military brat' with both parents in the military, graduated as a high school valedictorian from Riverside Indian School.

She went on to OU where she received a pilot's license during her sophomore year. Del Angel made one of her first flights over the skies of Riverside Indianw School where she had previously given a motivational speech to the students.

While she was still a student at Riverside, the school sponsored Del Angel to give motivational speeches to children from Arizona Indian reservations.

Del Angel plans to return to Arizona in June where she will shadow a recruiting officer for the Gold Bar Program at Arizona State University in Tempe, Ariz., as part of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps.

This progrm will allow Del Angel to start active duty sooner than a year, which is the usual time frame.

Del Angel has wanted to pursue the military for some time.

"Growing up in Germany, my father was stationed there," Del Angel said. "Just seeing the atmosphere and camaraderie and seeing one goal; one mission for all individuals around you that want to better themselves and the Nation, as well. I thought it was an awesome deal and decided that coming into college."

In the future, Del Angel wants to pursue her aviation career in the commercial or private airlines sector. However, her ultimate goal is to use her license to create a nonprofit organization through MCN.

"I would create an organization and hopefully inspire Native American kids to do what they love in life," Del Angel said. "I hope to gain a couple scholarships for these kids through a program and also a way for travel for Creek Nation. So it'd be a multipurpose nonprofit organization."

Family and friends including her sister and MCN employee, Victoria Del Angel, believe she can do just that.

"I'm her older sister," Victoria Del Angel said. "I'm two years older but I almost look up to her in a way. Whenever someone said she can't do something, she's found a way to make it happen."



Okemah

Continued from Page 1



MNN/Chelsie Rich

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health faculty joined MCN officials May 16 during the groundbreaking ceremony for the new MCN Community Hospital in Okemah, Okla.

radiology, mammography, ultrasound, behavioral health, optometry and laboratory services and will feature a detached wellness center where the MCN Diabetes Program will be held. The new hospital will also offer a full-service drive-thru pharmacy.

The Creek Nation Community Hospital will offer accessibility to a number of surrounding communities, as well as new employment opportunities.

Shelby Navarro, Chief Executive Officer of 1Architecture who is the lead architect for the new facility, believes it will open doors for the faculty.

"Visiting the old building, there's a great staff with great capability but they weren't given all the tools they needed; but did really good care with what they had," Navarro said. "Now they'll have the tools they need and will make amazing impacts."

According to Navarro, the structure reflects the Mvskoke culture.

"As Creek people, we're actually from the earth," Navarro said. "If you look at the renderings, the big part of the front of the facility is made from rammed earth. We incorporated a lot of sustainable elements to the building."

It is also equipped with geo-thermal heating and cooling as well as LED lighting and a roofing system to help with energy conservation.

Muscogee (Creek) citizen and RedStone Construction President Chris Samples, also looks forward to improving healthcare services and job opportunities for Muscogee (Creek) citizens.

"It's a great opportunity for RedStone to be a part of the MCN and be teaming and growing with Creek Nation, hiring employees that are Muscogee (Creek) citizens…

"We've all used IHS in the past and we certainly want to be apart of IHS as it evolves to be a better service to our citizens," Samples said.

According to Smith, the hospital will be ran by MCN and remain a Native American facility but the emergency room must be open to the public, pursuant to the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act.

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COUNCIL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

sored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

- TR 14-062 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement between the MCN and McIntosh County for the expenditure of funds for the preparation of plans, specifications, engineer's estimate and construction of the Texanna Road Project. Randolph sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.
- TR 14-063 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement between the MCN and Okmulgee County for the expenditure of funds for the preparation of plans, specifications, engineer's estimate and construction of the Nichols Park Road Project. Randolph sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.
- TR 14-064 Confirming the nomination of Gayla Waller to serve on the GOAB. Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 8-7, with Reps. Adam Jones, Shirlene Ade, Dode Barnett, Pete Beaver, Joyce Deere, Greene and Randolph voting against it.
- TR 14-065 Confirming the nomination of Christopher M. Ray to serve on the GOAB. Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.
- TR 14-066 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a quotation and contract with Petroleum Marketers Equipment Company of Tulsa on behalf of MCNDH. Ade sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.
- TR 14-067 Authorizing the principal chief to execute an agreed order with the Oklahoma State Board of Pharmacy regarding MCN Durable Medical Equipment. Ade sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.
- TR 14-068 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a transfer agreement between the MCN and the U.S. acting through Indian Health Service. Deere sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.
- TR 14-069 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a temporary operating permit with the Okmulgee Lion's Club for the operation of one temporary fireworks sales facility on tribal trust land. Rep. James Jennings sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.
- TR 14-070 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a service agreement with Loomis Armored U.S. LLC on behalf of the Office of the Controller. Rep. David Hill sponsored the resolution, which was postponed until the June regular session.
- TR 14-071 Authorizing the principal chief to execute contracts between the Nation and RedStone Construction Service for construction manager services related to the construction of a reintegration facility in Henryetta, Okla. Ade sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.
- TR 14-072 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a graduate research assistantship contract with the University of Alabama for research identifying Muscogee (Creek) affiliated archeological sites. Rep. Darrel Proctor sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.
- TR 14-073 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a cooperative use agreement with the Phillip Deere family for the use of the Phillip Deere roundhouse. Randolph sponsored the resolution, which passed 8-6, with Hill, Jennings, Proctor, Ade, Beaver and Deere voting against it.
- TR 14-074 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of understanding between the MCN and the Bureau of Land Management for the purpose of participation in a Regional Environmental Impact Statement and Resource Management Plan. Proctor sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.
- NCA 14-062 Authorizing the $45,900 expenditure of grant funds from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Native American Caregiver Support Grant Program to the MCN Caregiver Program. Rep. Lucian Tiger sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- NCA 14-063 Authorizing a special appropriation of $500 to two Muscogee (Creek) youth. Rep. Dode Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- NCA 14-064 Authorizing a $5,000 donation to the United Tribes for Christ Fellowship. Hill sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- NCA 14-065 Appropriating $660,000 for continued funding to establish a literacy program for the MCN to be administered by the Department of Education and Training. Ade sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- NCA 14-066 Authorizing a $5,000 donation to the American Diabetes Association. Reps. Frank Coachman, Beaver, Jennings, Ade and Tiger sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- NCA 14-068 Approving the 2015 Indian Housing Plan. Proctor sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- NCA 14-069 Amending MCN Code Annotated Title 24, Chapter 8, Subchapter 1, "Mortgage Down Payment and Closing Cost Program" and repealing Chapter 8, Subchapter 2, "Foreclosure Prevention Assistance." Deere sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- NCA 14-070 Authorizing a $7,500 donation to Kast Publishing to financially assist with the publishing of Phillip Coon's biography. Coachman sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- NCA 14-071 Authorizing a supplemental appropriation of $130,000 for the MCN Realty Department. Proctor sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- NCA 14-073 Transferring remaining funds of $134,790 from the MCN Consumer Loan fund to the MCN Department of Commerce – Mvskoke Loan fund for the Small Business Revolving Loans. Hill sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- NCA 14-074 Authorizing a $1,000 donation to a political candidate. Rep. Thomas Yahola sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- NCA 14-075 Amending NCA 12-162, appropriating funds to construct a new community building for Dewar Indian Community. Jennings, Beaver and Tiger sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- NCA 14-076 Repealing MCNCA Title 15, Chapter 4, entitled, "Museum Oversight Committee and Revolving Fund" and replacing it with a new Title 15, chapter 4, entitled, "MCN Cultural Center and Archives Department Revolving Fund." Rep. David Nichols sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- NCA 14-077 Authorizing a special appropriation of $7,300 to the Wetumka Indian Community. Yahola and Ade sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- NCA 14-078 Authorizing the expenditure of $50,000 from the MCN Museum and Cultural Center for the construction of a roundhouse on the property of Phillip Deere and authorizing the MCN Tribal Construction Department to oversee the construction of the roundhouse. Randolph sponsored the amendment, which passed 8-6, with Ade, Beaver, Hill, Proctor, Jennings and Deere voting against it.
- NCA 14-079 Authorizing a $2,000 donation to a political candidate. Jones sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

Rep. Mitch Jack was absent.



MNN/Kyla McKown

A regular session of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council was held May 17 at the MCN Mound Building in Okmulgee, Okla.



Citizen heads successful Native American academic program



Submission
Muscogee (Creek) citizens Dr. John Chaney (left) and Jamie Bruner (right) attend Oklahoma State University's American Indians Into Psychology program graduation ceremony May 2 in Stillwater, Okla.

AIIP fosters Native American graduate, medical school participation

Kyla McKown/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Dr. John Chaney has facilitated the American Indians Into Psychology Program at Oklahoma State University since 1997.

The AIIP program is funded through a four-year Indian Health Services grant. OSU has reapplied continuously since 1997. In that time, the program has had 36 Native Americans who have earned or are currently seeking a Ph.D. in psychology.

Due to the success of the program, Native Americans comprise 25 percent of OSU graduate enrollment in clinical psychology.

AIIP has two parts: the Summer Enrichment Program, which is designed for undergraduate students who plan to seek graduate school acceptance and a program for graduate students.

It offers four full-ride scholarships over each four-year grant cycle for students at the graduate and under-graduate levels.

The program focuses on pairing Native American students with a mentor who assists in research, sets up mock interviews and helps create resumes.

Dr. Chaney said research is the key to acceptance into a graduate or Ph.D. program in psychology.

"We also visit tribes," Dr. Chaney said. "We've come to Okmulgee and looked through Social Services and Behavioral Health. Let them see what it looks like; because a lot of students haven't been to tribal headquarters or seen an urban mental health facility."

Dr. Chaney and the rest of the AIIP advisory board have worked to promote the program and recruit other American Indians, preferably at the high school age.

"When we have the opportunity to promote OSU; I try to say yes," Dr. Chaney said. "I want to see as many Indian students as we can get."

The board members include a variety of Native American delegates from different entities and tribes. One of these members is Muscogee (Creek) Nation Higher Education Scholarship Foundation Program Director Dr. Pete Coser.

Dr. Coser's daughter, Ashley Coser, is a member of the AIIP program and is currently seeking her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology with an emphasis in Pediatrics.

Dr. Coser has worked with the program since it first started. He was a faculty member at the OSU College of Education, where he was able to work with Dr. Chaney on the program.

After leaving OSU and taking a job at MCN, Dr. Coser was asked to be on the AIIP advisory board.

"Indian kids have to keep going if they get knocked down," Dr. Coser said. "You just have to get back up. I wouldn't have a doctorate degree if I didn't get back up."

Dr. Coser said Ashley will most likely return to a tribal behavioral health department after graduation.

Dr. Chaney believes it is important for American Indians to return and serve their tribe in professional careers.

"What tribes need are accountants, medical billing, engineers; they need everything the world needs," Dr. Chaney said.

According to Dr. Chaney, a former AIIP program member is now the director of behavioral health at Cherokee Nation and another is the director of mental health at White Eagle Mental Health Center in Ponca City, Okla.

For more information on the program, visit: http://psychology.okstate.edu/.

Filmmaker documents Canadian First Nation community

Citizen discusses pride for MCN

Amanda Rutland/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Local filmmaker Blue Tarpalechee is working on his first independent project about the struggles of an indigenous community in Canada.

Tarpalechee began his film career at Vision Maker Media in Kansas after graduating in 2012 from the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, New Mexico with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in film.



Tarpalechee spoke about his time at Vision Maker Media.

"While I was there, I worked on several projects and just kind of cut my teeth in the film industry," Tarpalechee said.

One of the projects Tarpalechee worked on as an associate producer, was a series titled 'Growing Native,' which documents what tribes are doing to perpetuate food traditions.

"Basically, we just travel all around Indian Country looking for stories like that," Tarpalechee said. "What are tribes doing to get there communities healthy; and reclaiming all of those old traditional ways and traditional knowledge that we used to have that may have faded or may have stayed strong."

Tarpalechee said that he knew his time with Vision Maker Media would be temporary.

"I am building up work experience and a reel so I can go into a graduate program," Tarpalechee said.

He is currently working on an independent film following the Chippewa of the Thames First Nation in Canada as they draft a constitution.

"I was just totally engrossed in the whole idea of governing yourself and if you could really kind of choose the destiny for your people in terms of governance; what would you choose?" Tarpalechee said.

He believes choosing to film on his own has been challenging and rewarding at the same time. Even getting into Canada to film was a challenge.

"I actually had to try four times just to get into the country and the first time I was detained for six hours," Tarpalechee said. "I got in trouble while I was detained because I tried to document the experience."

Tarpalechee explained that seeing an indigenous people work through a political revolution helps him understand the current political state of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

"You just take so many things for granted but we grew up very blessed. We have a strong Nation that we can be proud of," Tarpalechee said.

Tarpalechee plans to have a rough cut together by July 4.

Tribal employee retires after 35 years of service



MNN/Amanda Rutland
Muscogee (Creek) Nation employee, James Proctor (left) has retired from the MCN after 35 years. Proctor plans to spend time with and care for his wife Geraldine Proctor (right).

Proctor says goodbye to MCN

Chelsie Rich/*Project Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation held a retirement reception May 1 for James Proctor at the MCN Executive Building in Okmulgee to celebrate his 35 years of service to the Nation.

Proctor held different titles during his time at MCN and has seen the tribe grow to what it is today.

"This was just an open field when I first started," Proctor said.

He has worked under the administrations of MCN Principal Chiefs Claude Cox, A.D. Ellis and now, George Tiger.

Most recently, Proctor was the capital security officer for the MCN Office of the Principal Chief.

Proctor has worked in security for over 25 years.

"Whenever I was in full swing… I wore many different kind of hats. I was a cowboy, I was a fireman; I was a policeman but that comes with the job," Proctor said.

Due to his military background and training, Proctor was originally brought in by Cox to perform security services for the bingo hall.

Proctor was moved to the OPC under Ellis.

"He wanted someone up front that could speak the language; so that's when I came in and I've been here ever since," Proctor said.

When Proctor spoke with Tiger about retirement, he told Proctor to retire when he was ready.

"It's been very difficult because I know all these people that work here. I've been around them for a long time… I thought I better step out while the going is good," Proctor said.

Proctor had a certain route that he would take as he patrolled the MCN Tribal Complex every day but his main focus was on MCN Elderly Housing.

"I would make sure everything was alright and if someone needed help; I would stop, assist them and if I couldn't I help them out; I would call someone in there really quick," Proctor said.

At 76-years-old, Proctor plans to spend time with and care for his wife and home life.

The 'Muscogee Nation News' would like to thank the Mvskoke Language Preservation Program for translating the article:

'Tribal employee retires after 35 years of service.'

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Mvskoke etvlwv James Proctor vtokvte wikepvhanat Mekko likat encukofv enhomphoyis vrrakuehocat. Vtotketv pale tutcenen cahkepohkaken vrvte.

Proctor tat vtoketv etemvrvhrakat Mvskoke etvlwv emvtotket arat nvk sulken akvwapken hecet yv mucv nettv vlakes.

Hvte vliceyat nake sepeko tomvts. Proctor make tokat.

Mekko Claude Cox ton Mekko A.D. Ellis welvkof mvn emvtotkvtes hvnyomat Mekko George Tiger mvtotketos.

Hvte vwolen, Proctor tat este wvnayv towet Mekko likat mv cuko vtotkv towvtes.

Proctor pale hokkolen cahkepohkaken tewvnayv towet vtotkvtes.

Proctor makat, vnhere vriyof mvrvkvn kvtopokv kohlici towe mvts. Wakasv, totkv vslecv, estewaynv, towimvts mv vtotketv vpaket towes.

Soletvwv mv arvte mvemvhakv ocet towet Claude Cox mekko yvnke vceyepicet, mv toknauwv epoyetv vkkopvnhoyat emvkvtecetv hvyates.

Momen Ellis Mekko omof emvtotkv hakv hannet vkuehoyvtes.

Homvn liket Mvskoke empunvkv kerret esistem ponayet owvhannen mvn vlicecvte tos. Proctor make tokat.

Mekko empoynayet wikepvhanitos, wikepvtcvs estofvn centake nowat kicvtes.

Yekce tos, este sulke hofone imvtotkaket fullat. Nvk here monkof vyet towahes kon towis. Proctor makvtes.

Proctor vketece vrosmahat nettv omvlkv arat vkerri cus mahat vculvke Mvskoke etvlw vpokat.

Nake estonkon vpokake nowat hecit estimvt vnickv yacake nowat fekhoniyet emvnicake towvnks. Emvnicvko taye nowat este emvhuekimvts lvpken.

Proctor tat pale kulvpohkaken epohkaken oricet, ehiwv vpaket cuko tvkliket vfvstetvres.

DeLaune's corner: Farther Along…



My favorite song and a challenge for my fellow citizens

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — How is everyone's spring going so far? Loving the weather changes every hour on the hour? Yeah, me too.

I was going through a bad case of writer's block these last few weeks and I am still going through it. I could not think of anything to write about to save my life. My editor asked me to do a column for this edition and I was afraid I was not going to be able produce one.

I went through everything to try and think of something to write about. I asked for suggestions from everybody, co-workers, friends, friends on Facebook and strangers.

I was getting desperate. Then I noticed that it was right in front of me. I looked at it over and over again everyday for the last few months.

It is a song. One of my favorite church hymnals called 'Farther Along.' I have loved this song since I was six years old but my interest was renewed late last year.

For those of you who do not know this song, it was written by a reverend. He wrote the lyrics to reflect his frame of mind at the time.

My view on it is, 'Why do bad things happened to good people?' Over my time (which to some people is not really long), I have met numerous people. Some of these people are amazing human beings, the greatest people alive.

But terrible things have happened to them. Death, sadness and anything wrong that can happen, has happened.

I always ask, 'Why them? Why does it have to be them? They do everything right but bad things happen to them.'

Then we see people who do wrong, succeed. They know that what they are doing is wrong but do not care. And for that, they are not only doing wrong but getting rewarded for it.

Everyone has done wrong. Lord knows I am not a saint. But everyone needs to set a good example. Even the most common man or woman, they are always in the public eye. Someone, old or young, is constantly watching and seeing how we act.

There was a pastor who spoke about the same things and he asked, 'Why them?' Then he went into detail about the song. He said that everything would be revealed in time. With patience and understanding it will all be explained.

To me, that meaning could be discovered when we get into heaven.

After that, it helped me love the song that much more. Who knew, that such simple words could carry such a powerful meaning?

This might be my first time writing a column without quotes. Surprised? Yes, I am too.

Instead, I want to place my favorite lyrics from this song. These lyrics might not fit the version most are use too. I have seen numerous lyrics added to this song but nonetheless; I love them.

Before I do, I found out that this song is originally sung in Navajo. That is great! What other tribal languages is this song sung in?

I would love to hear a Mvskoke (Creek) version. If someone can do that, I would be the first one there to learn how to sing the song.

That is my challenge to my fellow Muscogee (Creek) citizens. If you know of a version of this song that is in Mvskoke please let me know. If you would like to try to figure out how to translate the song in Mvskoke, tell me what I can do to help.

It would be another dream come true if the hymn was sung by a Muscogee (Creek) church congregation.

Thank you everyone again for reading this column. I appreciate the feedback. Please do not hesitate to send me topics. If I have some insight about your topic, you never know; it might be the next subject. Take care.

Tempted and tried we're oft made to wonder
Why it should be thus all the day long
While there are others living about us
Never molested though in the wrong

[Chorus]

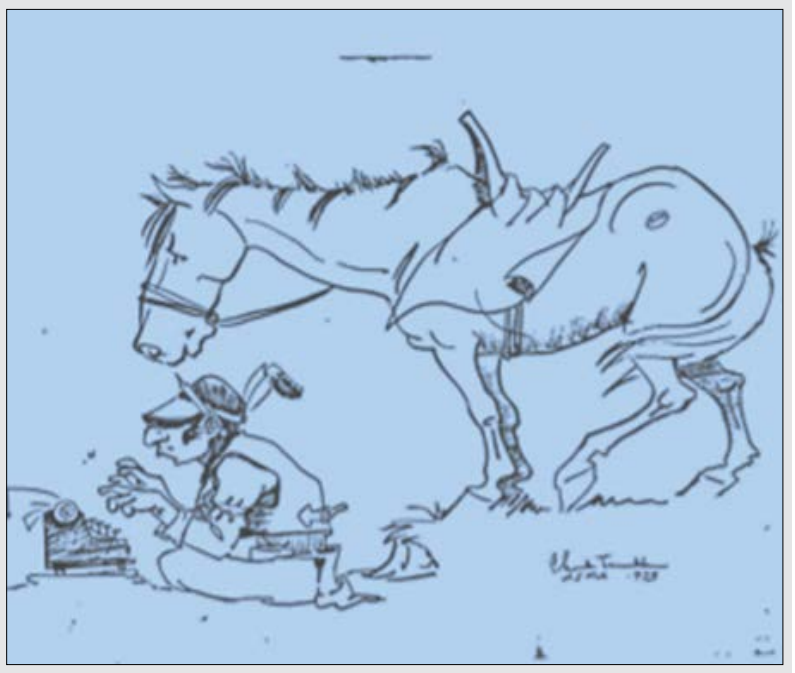
Farther along we'll know all about it
Farther along we'll understand why
Cheer up my brother live in the sunshine
We'll understand it all by and by
When we see Jesus coming in glory
When he comes down from his home in the sky
Then we shall meet him in that bright mansion
We'll understand it all by and by
Farther along we'll know all about it
Farther along we'll understand why
Cheer up my brother live in the sunshine
We'll understand it all by and by

My email address is: ddelaune@mcn-nsn.gov.

Emvpanyv: 'One who tells a story'

Fallin again, no museum, and some good stuff

Gary Fife/*Radio Specialist*



OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Oklahoma governor's daughter has managed again to rile up Native American residents of the state.

After the huge flap over Christina Fallin putting on a Plains tribe headdress replica for a photo earlier this year, she and her band performed at a music festival in Norman April 27, drawing a group of protestors.

Supposedly, the band had declared they would be in "full regalia" leading some people into thinking the whole band would be wearing 'Indian' costumes. Didn't happen.

Fallin did wear what some said was a shawl and performed dance steps thought to be an imitation of a war dance. From what I saw in photos, the garment she wore was more of a "Red Riding Hood" cape and there was no video of any dance steps. So that one can't be proven unless someone does have a video.

Momma Gov. Mary Fallin did say she disapproved of the performance and told Christina so.

There's still the fact that the guitarist (and Christina's boyfriend) 'flipped off' protestors.

On again, off again—off again

The American Indian Cultural Center and Museum in Oklahoma City has lost another round in the state legislature and it is not in the next state budget. The House said no to $40 million from the state's unclaimed property fund. That would have been matched by $40 million in money from the private sector.

Minneapolis has renamed the second Monday of October, the federal Columbus Day holiday, as Indigenous Peoples Day. The city council adopted the plan after hearing concerns that recognition of Columbus as the discoverer of America is inaccurate and ignores the millions of our ancestors and established civilizations.

Historical conjecture says three or four other groups voyaged to these shores before him anyway.

Minneapolis wants, "to better reflect the experiences of American Indian people and uplift our country's Indigenous roots, history and contributions."

The bill got unanimous support.

Council President Barbara Johnson said some of her Italian-American constituents are 'somewhat offended' by the city's snub of the Genoa-born explorer (who used the Spanish queen's hocked jewelry to pay for his voyage and got lost on his way to what he thought was India).

Stupidity is alive and well at another American institution of higher learning. The latest is the outrage over University of North Dakota students wearing T-shirts with the picture of an Indian man wearing a headdress while gulping beer from a beer 'bong.'

The caption reads: 'Sioux-per Drunk.' The school used to have the mascot, 'Fighting Sioux.'

I can just hear the familiar excuses: "It's just a joke" and "Lighten up."

A Nevada tribe refused to accept a gift from the Original Americans Foundation, said Sen. Harry Reid (D-Nevada), the U.S. Senate majority leader. Washington, D.C., football team owner Dan Snyder set up the foundation.

Many say it is only an attempt for good publicity and a buy off of the gathering protests over the team's racially offensive name.

Reid said the foundation bought a vehicle for the unnamed tribe. But "to their credit," the tribe didn't accept the gift.

"Snyder -- like he does everywhere -- he tries to buy them off," Reid said of NFL team owner Snyder.

Reid has repeatedly called on Snyder to eliminate his team's racist mascot.

Good to hear that tribe refused the "30 Pieces of Silver."

A former U.S. Attorney from Arizona, Diane Humetewa won confirmation in the U.S. Senate to become the first Native American woman to serve on the federal bench.

She will fill one of six vacancies in the federal District Court of Arizona.

Humetewa is from the Hopi tribe and currently serves as special counsel at Arizona State University, where she is also a professor.

She also was an appellate court judge for her tribe.

The National Congress of American Indians praised the confirmation, saying Humetewa has dedicated her time to serving the interests of Native peoples. Yea!

Wearable Humor (a T-shirt on the 'Net): "You know you're from the Rez…when your woman puckers up to kiss U and U turn 2 see who she's pointing at."

Hvtvm Cehecares — I will see you again.

MCN Youth Rodeo Association holds Family Fun Day

Club strives to promote horsemanship among youth

Kyla McKown/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The newly-founded Muscogee (Creek) Nation Youth Rodeo Association held its first event May 11 at Bob Arrington Arena in Okmulgee, Okla.

The association was allotted $5,000 from the MCN National Council for start up necessities, such as: concession items, flags, timers and a public address system.

It currently has about 25 members and meets the first Thursday of every month at 7 p.m. in the Mound Building on the MCN Tribal Complex.

The Family Fun Day was the kick-off event to bring community members and citizens together and get the word out.

"A lot of them brought their own horses," Fox said. "Some didn't have them but we had them available and the kiddos really enjoyed it and the parents enjoyed it as well."

The association is open to both Native Americans and non-Natives.

MCNYRA President, Harvey Fox, said that although the association is geared toward youth, it is open to all ages.

A one-year membership is $10, or an annual family membership can be purchased for $25.

MCNYRA plans to start holding play days, which will start out with peewee, junior and adult barrel racing, pole bending, flag races and the pantyhose races.

"We're on two different horses, I take a leg of the pantyhose and you take a leg of them," Fox said. "Then we ride around trying not to rip them and do it in a timely manner."

Once the play days are up and running, Fox plans to host full-fledged rodeos with all events, including bull riding.

Right now, some members are practicing to ride in the grand entry of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Festival All-Indian Rodeo June 27-28.

"We're in the process of getting a riding crew of six or eight to participate in the pivots and standards," Fox said. "They'll weave in and out, honor the flag and a prayer; then they'll start the rodeo."

For more information about MCNYRA or to join, call Harvey Fox at: 918-689-0582 or Vice President Bodie Roberts at: 918-752-6997.

"More or less, it's a fun deal and it can be competitive for youth contestants around the counties here," Fox said. "At the end of the year, they can build up points and win a buckle or saddle; whatever the case calls for."

MCN Community and Tribal Events

Housing Department to hold listening meeting

Media Release

MUSKOGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Housing has set a listening meeting for June 14 from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. at the Muscogee Indian Community Center, 335 N. 4th St., Muskogee, OK.

Agenda:

10 a.m. — Opening Prayer
Welcome

10:15 a.m. — MCN Principal Chief George Tiger

10:30 a.m. — Recap/updates of previous listening meetings - Cabinet members

11 a.m. — Open Floor Meeting

12 p.m. — Refreshments/door prizes

Pre-register by contacting Lora King with the MCN Department of Housing at: 918-549-2572 or by email at: lking@mcn-nsn.gov.

MCN Child Care Office announces CACFP

Media Release

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Office of Child Care announces its participation in the Child and Adult Care Food Program. All participants in attendance are served meals at no extra charge to the parents.

In accordance with federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, participating institutions are prohibited from discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability.

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, D.C., 20250-9410, or call toll-free: 866-632-9992. Individuals who are hearing impaired or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at: 800-877-8339 or 800-845-6136 (Spanish).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Selection for NICOA trip open through June 12

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Registration for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Senior Services Department sponsored trip to the 20th annual National Indian Council on Aging Conference Sept. 3-6 in Phoenix is open until June 12 for Muscogee (Creek) seniors ages 55 and older.

There are 50 seats available and those who went on the Alabama trip in March will placed on the standby list.

The random drawing will be held 12 p.m., June 13 in the Tribal Conference Room. All are welcome to attend.

For more information contact the MCN Senior Services at: 918-732-7765.

GIC Special election set for June 23

GLENPOOL, Okla. — The Glenpool Indian Community has set a special election for 7 p.m., June 23 to fill the vacant secretary position.

All candidates can pickup forms in person at the community center office.

All Indian Golf Tournament set for June 27-28

CHECOTAH, Okla. — The 2014 Muscogee (Creek) Nation Festival Golf All Indian Golf Tournament is set for June 27-28 at Fountainhead Creek Golf Course in Checotah, Okla.

For more information contact Fountainhead at: 918-689-3209.

Murrow Indian Children's Home Powwow set for June 28

MUSKOGEE, Okla. — The third annual Murrow Indian Children's Home Powwow is set for June 28 at Bacone College Palmer Center, 2299 Old Bacone Rd., Muskogee, OK.

For more information contact Betty Martin at: 918-682-2586.

Neighborhood meeting set for July 5

RYAL, Okla. — The Salem-Ryal Fire Department annual neighborhood meeting is set for 2 p.m., July 5 at the Salem-Ryal Fire Department, Rt. 2 Box 385, Henryetta, OK, 74437.

Two seats on the board are up for election.

MCN Food Distribution reschedule notice

MCN FD/*Media Release*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Food Distribution Program tailgate sites have been rescheduled. This will be for the month of June only.

June 17 Coweta 8:30 –10:30a.m.

June 18 Eufaula 9:30 –10:30a.m.

June 19 Bristow 8:30 –10:30a.m.

The Okmulgee store will remain open from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., Monday–Friday. The store is closed the last two working days of the month. For more information you may contact MCN Food Distribution at: 918-549-2401.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

DISTRICT COURT FILED
2014 MAY 9 AM 9 51
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
DONNA BEAVER
COURT CLERK

In the Matter of the Guardianship of the Persons and Estates of: K. L. W., A Minor Child.

Case No. GD-2014-08

SERVICE OF SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION NOTICE

To: Leon Williams, III

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued for guardianship of the Minor Child in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, GD 2014-08, styled In the Matter of the Guardianship of the Person and Estate of: K.L.W., minor child. The action alleges that the petitioners are entitled to a Final Decree of Guardianship over the minor child.

You are notified that you must answer the *Petition* filed by the petitioner or appear on the 11th day of June, 2014, at 10:00 o'clock a.m. or the allegations contained in the *Petition* will be taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of petitioner as prayed for in their *Petition*.

Given under my hand and seal this 9th day of May, 2014.

Donna Beaver, Court Clerk
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court,
Okmulgee District

By: Stephanie Bear
(Deputy)

Approved:

Courtney L. Eagan-Smith, MCN#543
McKenna & Prescott
114 N. Grand Ave, North Lobby
Okmulgee, OK 74447
(918) 756-1112 Telephone
(918) 756-1113 Facsimile
Attorney for Petitioner

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
STATE OF OKLAHOMA OKMULGEE COUNTY
The undersigned hereby certifies this instrument to be a full, true and correct copy of the orginal, as the same appears on the record in the District Court Records
Witness this 9 day of May 20 14
Stephanie Bear
Court Clerk

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

DISTRICT COURT FILED
2014 MAY 13 AM 11 20
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
DONNA BEAVER
COURT CLERK

IN THE MATTER OF:
M.M.; DOB: 05/07/2013
Alleged Deprived Child.

Case No. JV-2013-08

NOTICE OF HEARING TO:

Alicia D. Davis, Natural Mother of M.M.
11247 S. 105th E. Ave.
Bixby, OK 74008

YOU ARE HEREBY GIVEN NOTICE that a Petition to Terminate Parental Rights has been filed against you in the above-styled and numbered cause and will be heard in the District Courtroom of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Tribal Complex in Okmulgee, Oklahoma on the **1ST day of AUGUST, 2014** at **9:00 A.M.**

YOU ARE HEREBY INFORMED that it is sought by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation that the child remains a ward of the Court and custody be continued in the Children and Family Services Administration for continued foster placement of possible pre-adoptive placement. **YOU ARE FUTHER INFORMED** that you have the right to be represented by legal counsel at this hearing.

FURTHERMORE, failure to appear at the hearing shall constitute a denial of interest in the child which denial may result , without further notice of this proceeding or any subsequent proceeding, in the termination of your parental rights.

JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT

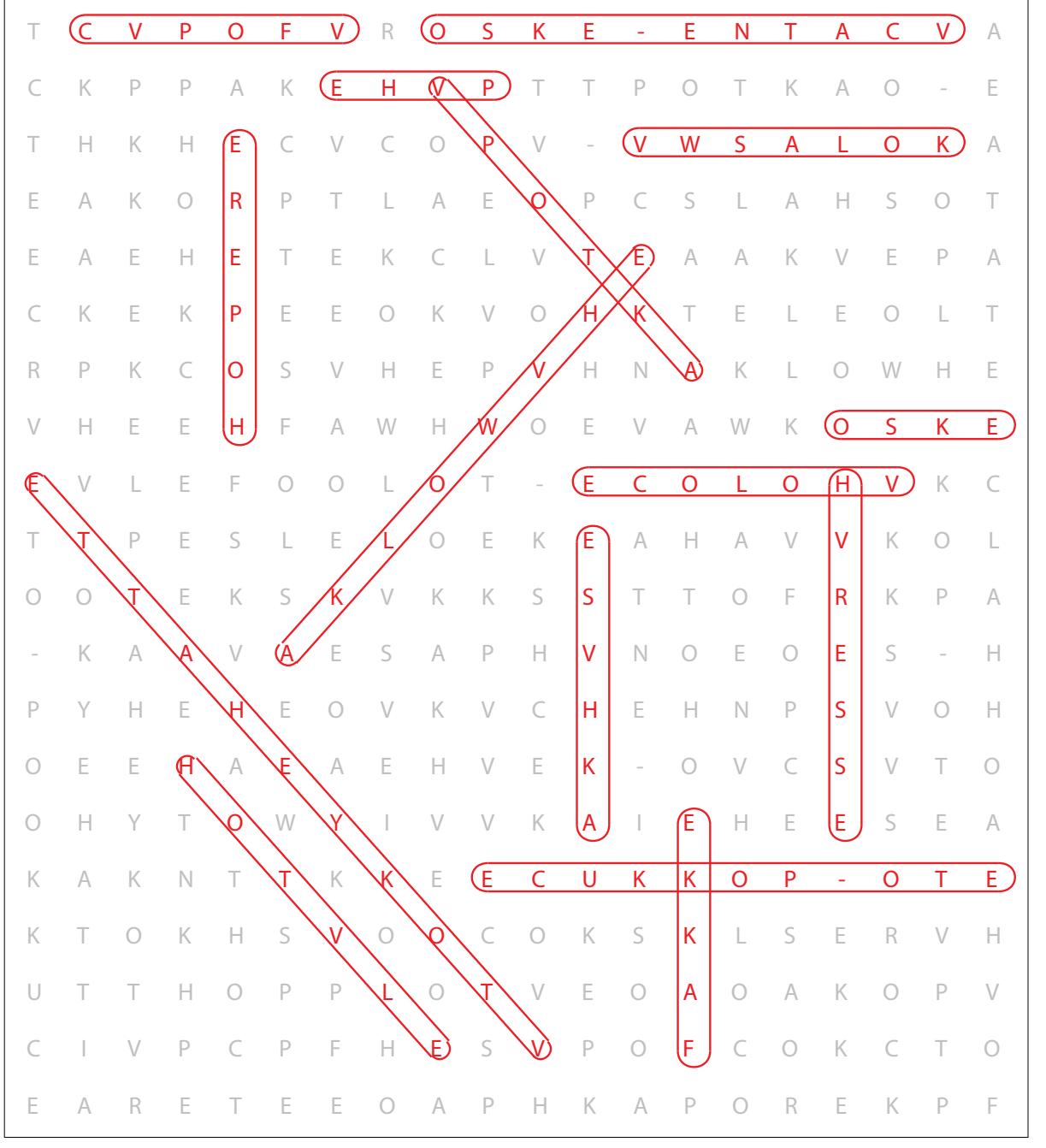
Tribal Transit provides transportation for Phillips 66 group



Submission

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Transit Department gave a tour in the MCN trolley of the Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology Campus May 7 to 14 representatives from Phillips 66. The company donated $95,000 help support the development of the new Pipeline Integrity Technology program at OSUIT.

Key for Mvskoke Language puzzle from May 15




MVSKOKE NATION
GREAT SEAL OF THE
MUSCOGEE NATION I.T.
2014
20th Festival 40th ANNUAL
JUNE 26–29
LIVE IN CONCERT
JUNE 27
KIX BROOKS
DIAMOND RIO
JUNE 28
THE JACKSONS
also appearing CRYSTAL SHAWANDA
ART • FOOD • RODEO • PARADE
5K RUN • SPORTS TOURNAMENTS
CULTURAL EXHIBITIONS
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT • CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES
SENIOR ACTIVITIES • JR OLYMPICS
FREE ADMISSION
BUDDY GUY
OHIO PLAYERS
also appearing MARTHA REDBONE
WE ARE MVSKOKE
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
MVSKOKE
TOURISM & RECREATION
AWEPVKS!
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION TOURISM & RECREATION 918.732.7992 CREEKFESTIVAL.COM

MVSKOKE NATION Festival Schedule

CREEKFESTIVAL.COM

ALL EVENTS OCCUR AT THE CLAUDE COX OMNIPLEX UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

of EVENTS

SATURDAY, JUNE 7
6:00PM MCN Scholarship Pageant
—River Spirit Event Center, Tulsa

SUNDAY, JUNE 15
6:15AM Muscogee (Creek) Nation Bass Classic
—South Point Pavilion at Eufaula Cove

FRIDAY, JUNE 20
6:30PM Slow Pitch Softball Tournament

SATURDAY, JUNE 21
8:00AM Slow Pitch Softball Tournament
9:00 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament_Adult
—*Mvskoke* Dome, Claude Cox Omniplex

SUNDAY, JUNE 22
8:00AM Slow Pitch Softball Tournament

THURSDAY, JUNE 26
6:00PM Stomp Dance
—S. of Mound, MCN Complex

FRIDAY, JUNE 27
8:00AM Golf Tournament (4-man scramble)
—Fountainhead Golf Course, Hwy 150, Checotah
Junior Olympics
— Harmon Stadium, 601 E. 12th, Okmulgee
Senior Citizens' Activities
—Senior Housing, Polokse Circle, Okmulgee
9:00 Traditional Skills
—W. of Mound, MCN Complex
10AM Children's Fun Fair
10AM-4PM Council House Art & Food Market
—Council House, 106 W. 6th, Okmulgee
5:00PM Arts & Crafts/Food Vendors
6:00 LIVE ENTERTAINMENT_Crystal Shawanda
Fast Pitch Softball Tournament
INFR Tour Rodeo—Bob Arrington Rodeo Arena
7:30 LIVE ENTERTAINMENT_Kix Brooks
9:30 LIVE ENTERTAINMENT_Diamond Rio

SATURDAY, JUNE 28
7:30AM 5k Walk/Run
—E. Side of Mound, MCN Complex
8:00 Fast Pitch Softball Tournament
Horseshoe Tournament
Golf Tournament (4-man scramble)
—Fountainhead Golf Course
Rodeo SLACK—Bob Arrington Rodeo Arena
9:00 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament_Youth
—*Mvskoke* Dome
Corn Stalk Shoot_Youth
—W. of Mound, MCN Complex
Volleyball Tournament
10:00 Festival Parade, 6th Street, Okmulgee
Corn Stalk Shoot_Adult
—W. of Mound, MCN Complex
Children's Fun Fair
Child Safety Seat Check—MCN Complex
10AM-2PM Health Fair
10AM-4PM Council House Art & Food Market
11:00AM Arts&Crafts/Food Vendors
2-6:00PM Creek Hymn Singing/Gospel Singing
—Mound Building, MCN Complex
5:00 LIVE ENTERTAINMENT_Martha Redbone
6:00 LIVE ENTERTAINMENT_Ohio Players
6-8:00 INFR Tour Rodeo Finals
7:30 LIVE ENTERTAINMENT_Buddy Guy
9:30 LIVE ENTERTAINMENT_The Jacksons

SUNDAY, JUNE 29
8:00AM Fast Pitch Softball Tournament



WIN ME!

POLARIS RZR 570 EFI
PURCHASE TICKETS @ FESTIVAL GIFT SHOP
$5 EA OR 5 TICKETS FOR $20
DRAWING HELD AFTER
THE OHIO PLAYERS PERFORMANCE
ON THE MAIN STAGE



Shuttle Service Available Every 20 Minutes June 27&28, 5:00p.m.– 11p.m. Housing Divsion Parking Lot & Parking Lot East of the Mound



MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION TOURISM & RECREATION 918.732.7992 CREEKFESTIVAL.COM

The Muscogee Nation News congratulates 2014 MCN graduates

Brianna Adams

Sapulpa High School



Brianna plans to attend the University of Oklahoma in Norman, Okla., and major in psychology. She plans to become a child life specialist.

Brianna is a member of the Wind Clan, Alabama Tribal Town and Haikey Chapel United Methodist Church. Her parents are Jim and Denise Chalakee of Sapulpa, Okla., and Craig Adams of Sapulpa.

Rachel Elizabeth Bell

Hilldale High School



Rachel's accomplishments and activities during high school include: Superintendent's and Principal's Honor Roll, yearbook staff member for four years, art award, yearbook award, psychology award, Downtown Muskogee youth photography contest winner, Girl Scout for 11 years, and a junior volunteer for over 500 hours at Muskogee Regional Medical Center/EASTAR Health System. She participates in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Summer Youth Employment Program.

Rachel plays the piano and enjoys photography and working with children. She attends Muskogee FBC. She will be attending Connors State College in the fall and afterwards, she plans to attend Northeastern State University to major in early childhood education. She would like to be a preschool teacher.

Rachel is the daughter of Roger and Tammy Bell of Muskogee and granddaughter of Kirby and Lillie Boen of Wainwright, Okla., and Bob and Louise Bell of Muskogee, Okla.

Kiara Shan'deh Bradford

Okemah High School



Kiara played basketball two years and was manager/video technician for her junior and senior year. She also participated in softball one year and was the mascot her sophomore year. She participated in track and field for four years and she got fourth her senior year in discus regionals, which was her best throw of all time.

Her future goal is to complete her associates degree at Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology/College of the Muscogee Nation and further pursue her education for her Bachelor of Arts at the University of Oklahoma or University of Louisville.

She is a member of Springfield Church, Eco Clan and Arbeka Ceremonial. Her parents are Carol K. Thompson and Earnest Bradford Jr.; her paternal grandparents are Earnest and Sharon Bradford and her maternal grandparents are Eugenia Tiger and Daniel Bodee Thompson.

Airiana Leigh Bumgarner

Central High School

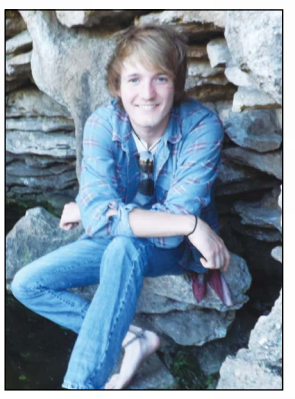


Airiana graduated from Central High School May 31, 2014 in San Angelo, Texas. She participated in soccer and earned first-team All-District two years in a row and was named to the All-Tournament Team at the Keller Timber Creek Tournament. She was voted as Most Beautiful at the Central High School Favorites Ceremony. Airiana plans to attend Angelo State University in San Angelo, Texas.

Airiana is a member of Deer Clan. She is the daughter of Kenny and Rashelle Bumgarner of Eufaula, Okla., and Shandra Bumgarner and Kirk Barchenger of San Angelo, Texas.

Austin Burwell

Dewar High School



Austin has made the following accomplishments: senior class president, Oklahoma Indian Honor Society, National Technical Honor Society, Superintendent an Principal Honor Roll, Woodmen of the World Award 2013, MDA Summer camp counselor 2013, carpentry at Vo-Tech 2012- 2013, Band for five years, choir for one year, visited the state capitol 2011, active in the church youth group, volunteers in the church nursery, volunteered for VBS, FCCLA -- Northeast 6th District President 2012, escort at FCCLA Awards Banquet for three years, escorted a contestant for the National American Miss Beauty Pageant for two years and an academic scholarship from Rogers State University in Claremore, Okla., which covers tuition, fees, books, on campus housing and the on campus meal plan.

He is a member of Dewar First Baptist Church and his parents are Tammy and Curtis Harvey and Jesse Burwell.

Samantha Rae Checotah

University of Oklahoma

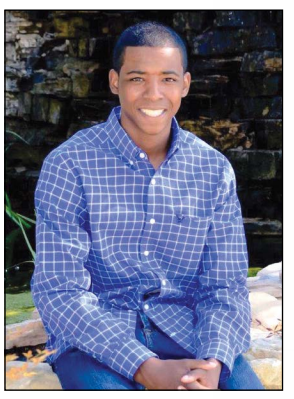
Master's in Human Relations



Samantha has received her certificate for helping skills in human relations. Her parents are Donnie and Dorothy Checotah.

Cortland Lewis Chiles

Byng High School
Ada, Oklahoma



Cortland will be attending East Central University in Ada, Okla., starting in June.

He is a member of the Thlewarthle Tribal Town and Grace Fellowship Church in Ada. His parents are Marvin and Tracy Chiles and his grandparents are Queen Esther Chiles and the late Alfonzo 'Babe' Chiles and the late Rev. E.L. Vincent, Sr.

Megan Elaine Cooper

L.D. Bell High School

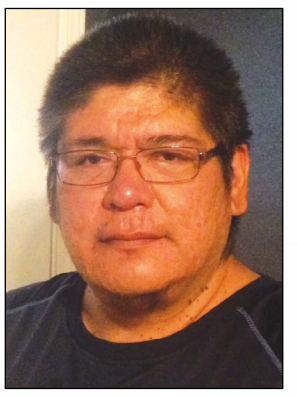


Megan has made the following accomplishments: 2013: BOA Finalist, LD Bell Marching Band, BOA San Antonio Super Regional, BOA Allen, 2012: LD Bell Marching Band, UIL State Marching Band, BOA San Antonio Super Regional, BOA St. Louis Super Regional, 2011: Broken Arrow Pride Marching Band, BOA Grand National Champion, BOA St. Louis Super Regional Champion, OSSAA State Marching Champion, Oklahoma All Region Competition, 2010: Broken Arrow Pride Marching Band, BOA Grand National Champion, BOA St. Louis Super Regional Champion, OSSAA State Marching Champion, Oklahoma All District Competition, MuAlphaTheta and Hurst City Youth Government.

She is a member of Colleyville Assembly of God Church in Texas and her parents are Michael and Neeta Cooper.

Amos Lynn Crowles

Northeastern State University
Bachelor of Science, Organizational Leadership



Amos is a member of the Raccoon Clan, Kialegee Tribal Town and Wetumka Indian Baptist Church. He is the son of Millie Scott and Amos Crowels.

Rebecca Ann Crowels



Northeastern State University

Bachelor of Science, Organizational Leadership

Rebecca is the daughter of Olan Wilson from Stone Bluff, Okla., and the late Carol Wilson from Tulsa, Okla.

Talia Culley



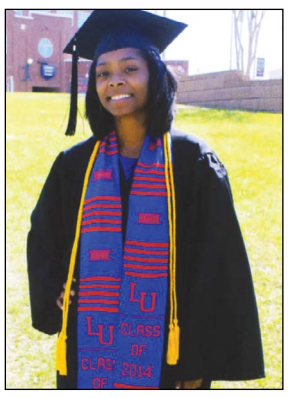
Seminole State College

Associates in Applied Science in Nursing

Talia has received the Tiffany Tiffin Spirit of Nursing Award.

Talia is a member of the Alligator Clan and Okfuskee Ceremonial ground. She is the daughter of the late Farron Culley and Irene Culley.

Ashley Nicole Fox



Langston University
Bachelor of Science, Biology

Ashley graduated May 16, 2014. She attends the Church of God in Hoffman, Okla. Ashley is the daughter of Harold and Derrie Fox of Grayson, Okla. She is the granddaughter of the late,
Clara Barnett Phillips and Harvey and Johnny Fox of Grayson, Okla.

Patrick Austin Freeland



Purdue University

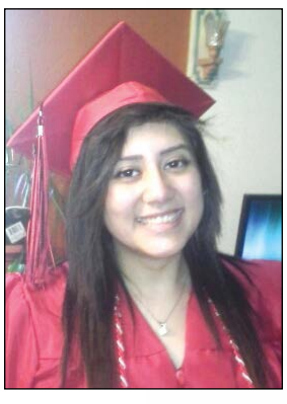
Master of Science, Ecological Sciences and Engineering

Patrick is a recipient of the George Washington Carver Fellowship and is an Alfred P. Sloan Indigenous Graduate Fellow. He also served as the Purdue Graduate Student Government Social Committee chairman and president of the Native American Student Association. He is a member of the Useful to Useable Objective 2 Working Group, the International Association for Society and Natural Resources and the American Indian Science and Engineering Society.

Patrick has been featured as a guest lecturer at the Native American Educational and Cultural Center, the International Center, the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, the Office of Interdisciplinary Graduate Programs, the Native American Studies Program and the Boiler Gold Rush.

He is a member of the Wind Clan, Okmulgee Tribal Town, Tallahassee Indian Methodist Church and Big Cussetah Ceremonial Ground. His parents are Cecelia Kay and Brett Freeland.

Alyssa Joann Hall



East Central High School

Alyssa graduated May 23, 2014 with a 4.0 GPA. She conducted abstinence classes for younger peers and also volunteered to mentor elementary school kids. She was also a part of East Central Pom Squad. Alyssa plans to attend college to be a neonatal nurse.

Alyssa is a member of the Bear Clan and Covenant Harvest Church in Sapulpa, Okla. Her parents are Jessica Freeman and Lance Hall and her grandparents are Loretta and Douglas Freeman and Jeanne Hyatt and Raymond Hall.

Ernest 'EJ' John Christopher Hall

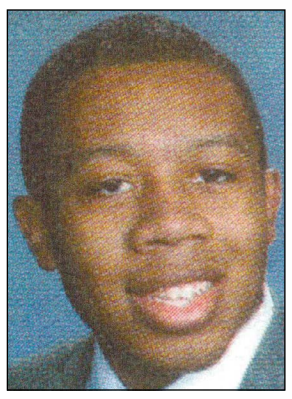


Del City High School

EJ is a two-year varsity letterman on the Del City High School baseball team as an outfielder and relief pitcher. EJ has been accepted at Oklahoma Wesleyan University in Bartlesville and will also be part of the baseball team there.

His parents are Lisa Bear and John Hall.

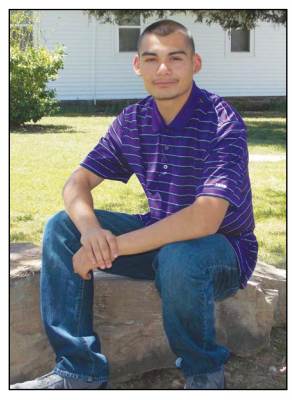
Robert Russell Douglas Hardin



University of Michigan
Bachelor of Business Administration

He is a member of the Wind Clan and Thlopthlocco Tribal Town. His parents are Lana and Carl Hardin and his grandparents are Marcelle Adams Douglas and the late Irving Douglas and Nannie and James Hardin, Sr.

Alan James Harjo



Weleetka High School

Alan is a three year state finalist in 1 A track. He was invited to run in the Down Under Sports Track and Field Meet and invited to play in the Eufaula All-Star Football game. He is currently enlisted in U.S. Army National Guard.

Rayna Jean Harjo



Okemah High School

Rayna is a member of the National Honor Society and the National Technical Honor Society. She was on the honor roll and received numerous academic awards. Rayna was a student at Wes Watkins Technology Center and Seminole State College. She will graduate from high school with 38 college credit hours.

She was selected for numerous regional, conference, all-star and tournament basketball teams as well as MVP awards. Rayna qualified for the State Track Meet in the shot put and discus events. She was selected to the softball all-conference team and the all-region team. Rayna is planning to play softball at Rose State College and study in multi-media communication and pre-physical therapy.

Rayna is a member of the Deer Clan, Thlopthlocco Tribal Town and Okemah First Baptist Church. Her parents are Simmon and Tina Harjo. Her grandparents are Wayne and Lucille Harjo and Rita West.

Lauren Heck



Copperas Cover High School

Copperas Cove, Texas

Lauren has been a member of the Lady Dawg soccer team for four years, where she has earned the academic all-area team award, in addition to being on the A/B honor roll for her last three years of high school. She also plays club soccer for the Lampasas Tri-City Express team, where she serves as team captain. Lauren is committed to attend Bacone College on a soccer scholarship this fall, where she will focus on a degree in elementary education. Her parents are so proud of her accomplishments and look forward to her continuing her education, as well as her soccer career as a Lady Warrior.

Lauren is a member of the Bird Clan and her parents are Earl and Erin Hick.

Alena Nicole James

Nathan Hale High School



Alena is the daughter of Dominic James and Anissa Wesley. Her grandparents are Calvin and Letha James and Richard and the late Tsianina Wesley.

Alena is a member of the Tiger Clan, Arbeka Tribal Town and Grave Creek Indian Baptist Church.

Marcus Reno Jimboy

Okemah High School



Marcus has made the following accomplishments: in football, play-offs 2010-2013; All-District Honorable Mention 2012 and 2013; All-District, District 2A-5 Outside Linebacker of the Year and Defensive Player of the Year; in powerlifting, Regional Champions in 2011; Regional Champions and State Champions in 2013 and Regional Champions and State Qualifiers in 2014, and he was State Alternate in 2012 in track and field. He is a member of the National Honor Society and Beta Club.

Marcus plans to attend Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Okla. He is a member of Creek Chapel Methodist Church and his parents are Allison Berryhill and Ray Jimboy, paternal grandparents are Amanda and Paul Jimboy and his maternal grandparents are Estella Berryhill and Alfred Berryhill.

Rebekah Kahbeah

Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology
Associate in Business



Rebekah graduated from Preston High School in 2010 where she played softball and was chosen to play on the all-star team at the University of Oklahoma. She plans to work part time and continue her education. Rebekah's family is proud of her and knows she will do well in whatever path she takes in life.

Anastacia Rachelle Knighton

Robbinsville High School
Robbinsville, N.C.



She is a member of the Bear Clan, she is the daughter of Jennifer Joyce Wesley and her grandparents are the late Clarence Deer Wesley and the late Margaret Sootawakeky Wesley.

Tunissah Renee Lindsey

Glenpool High School



Tunissah graduated high school and plans to attend the College of Muscogee Nation and Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology. She plans to pursue dentistry.

Tunissah is a member of the Wind Clan, Nuyaka Tribal Town and Nuyaka Ceremonial Ground. Her parents are Marvin Carter and Robert and Geebee Ratliff.

Hanna Virginia Elizabeth Long

Eufaula High School



Hanna is a member of the Alabama Quassarte Tribal Town and Ceremonial Ground and West Eufaula Indian Baptist Church. Her mother is Grayson Long in Lindsey, Okla., and her guardian is Judy Morsette in Eufaula, Okla.

Whitney Michelle Marshall

Seminole High School



Whitney's accomplishments include: four years of varsity volleyball, three years on student council, three years FCCLA, two years on the National Honors Society, two years of varsity cheerleading, 2012 Alabama Quassarte Tribal Princess, 2013 Varsity Volleyball Bethany Tournament All Player, 2014 Varsity Kellyville Tournament All Player.

Whitney is a member of Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town and the Bear Clan. Her parents are Famous and Erin Marshall.

Charlene Rae McGirt

College of the Muscogee Nation, Tribal Services

Oklahoma State University Technical Institute, General Education



Charlene plans to further her education in Native American studies at CMN and receive a certificate in the Mvskoke language. After completion, she plans to attend Northeastern State University to pursue Native American Studies. Her long-term goal is to obtain a Master's in NAS.

Charlene is excited about her future and working with her tribe to remain a sovereign nation.

Charlene is a member of the Deer Clan and New Tulsa Tribal Town. She is the daughter of Karen Musgrove.

Alicia "Cate" Mitchell

College of the Muscogee Nation

Associate Degree, Gaming

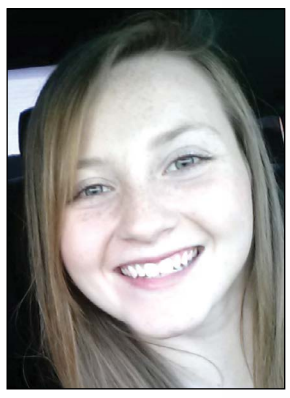


Alicia is a member of the Native American Student Association. She also served as president and vice-president of the Student Housing Organization during her educational career.

Alicia is a member of the Wotko Clan, Weogufkee Tribal Town and Tulmochoussee Indian Baptist Church. Her parents are Joyce Mitchell the late David Mitchell.

Kaylee Morrison

Broken Arrow High School



Kaylee was selected to be a member of the Color Guard in the Pride of Broken Arrow High School Marching Band. The Pride was honored for the invitation to march in the 2013 Rose Bowl Parade in Pasadena, Calif. She completed two years of pre-med classes at the Tulsa Technology Center while in her junior and senior years. Kaylee has also been selected to be a member of President Boren's Leadership Class at the University of Oklahoma. While in college, she plans to pursue medicine and become a doctor.

Kaylee is a member of the Skunk Clan. Her mother is Shannon Norman and she great-great granddaughter of late Muscogee (Creek) citizens Judy Kanard Morton and Joshua Morton.

Alexandria Renee' Mosquito

Liberty Mounds High School



Throughout high school, Alex was on the honor roll and graduated 5th in her class. She was nominated for the Wendy's Heisman Award and had the privilege of meeting Heisman trophy winners Billy Sims and Jason White.

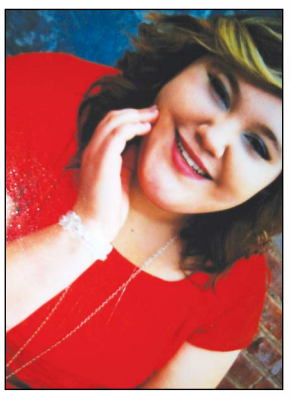
Alex was a part of fast pitch softball, slow pitch softball and basketball teams. She was the 2014 Basketball Homecoming Queen and nominated offensive player of the year. She was awarded the Randy Hess Sportsmanship award and voted All-Conference Player in basketball.

Alex plans to attend the University of Oklahoma and major in nursing.

Alex is the daughter of Jacob Mosquito of Mounds and Misty Shelton of Okmulgee. Her grandparents are Ray and Beth Shelton of Cleveland, Tenn. Her great-grandfather is Rev. Ray Shelton of Waynesville, Ohio. Her sister, Jerean also attends Liberty Mounds High School.

Cheyenne Plum

Bristow High School



Cheyenne plans to attend the University of Central Oklahoma to pursue a degree in early childhood education. She is a member of the Fish Clan and Euchee Tribal Town. Her parents are Joshua and Starla Plum.

Leslie M. Powell

East Central University, Ada, Oklahoma

Master's in Human Resources major Vocational Rehabilitation Counseling



Leslie graduated May 10, 2010 and was awarded Internship of the Year, The James West Outstanding Rehabilitation Graduate Intern and Rehabilitation Counseling Program for academic year 2013-2014.

Leslie would like to say Mvto to her husband Rick and family for supporting me through her educational journey. "Without the support of family, friends and sponsors, education would not be possible."

Amberly Dawn Proctor

Hanna High School



Amberly has made the following accomplishments: Senior Class Valedictorian, 4.0 GPA, Senior Class President, Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence Academic All-State Scholar, Oklahoma Academic Scholar, member of the Oklahoma Indian Honor Society, OCA Small East Class B Girls All-Star Team, Selected to the OGBCA Academic All-State Team, Oklahoma Indian All-State First Team, varsity basketball captain and she was named a University Scholar and received a full-tuition scholarship to Oklahoma Baptist University.

She is a member of the Ecovlke Clan and Weogufkee Indian Baptist Church. Her parents are Darrell and Robin Proctor and her grandparents are James and Pat Berry.

Taylon C. Ramirez

Holdenville High School



Taylon is an all around boy and his accomplishments include: Heart and Hustle Award for Baseball and Basketball and Honor Roll.

He is a member of the Bear Clan and his parents are Lonnie and Tarsha Ramirez.

Courtney Lynn Quoinquodle Reeder

University of Oklahoma

Native American Studies with a minor in Health and Exercise Science

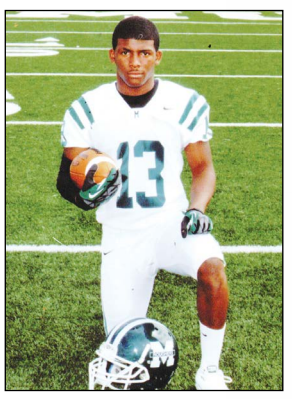


Courtney completed her bachelor's degree while balancing the responsibilities of a mother and a student. She has two children, four-year-old Tushka, and 11-month-old Mahli. Courtney is the recipient of the Gates Millennium Scholarship, American Indian AT&T Scholarship, and F. Browning Pipestem Memorial Scholarship. She is cultural affairs chair for the American Indian student Association and a member of the Gamma Delta Pi sisterhood. Other honors in past semesters include the Dean's Honor Roll and President's Honor Roll. Courtney plans to attend the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center this fall to pursue a Master's Degree in Public Health.

Courtney is a member of the Thlopthlocco Tribal Town, Salt Creek Church in Holdenville, Okla., and the Tiger Clan. Her parents are Sonya Reeder-Orange and Victor Orange.

Samuel James Richardson

Muskogee High School



Samuel's graduation was held at the Indian Bowl in Muskogee, Okla. His parents are James and Vernanell Richardson.

John Michael Seawright

Elbert County Comprehensive High School



John graduated May 14, 2014 from Elbert County Comprehensive High School. He will be attending Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in Tifton, Ga., where his major will be environmental science with a minor in turf management.

John is the son of John and Lisa Seawright of Elberton, Ga. He is the grandson of Mike and Sue Chalakee-Seawright of Donalds, S.C., and Rev. Wayne and Joyce Wiggins of Abbeville, S.C. His great-grandparents were the late Reuben and Peggy Sunny-Chalakee of Okmulgee and his great-aunt is Pearl Chalakee-Thomas.

Amanda Lewis-Six

Southern Nazarene University

Biology with a minor in Chemistry



Amanda has made the following accomplishments: Cum Laude Honor Society, McNair Scholar of the McNair Post Baccalaureate Achievement Program, McNair Scholar Research – conducted Summer 2012, NASA Senior Scholar, ODSA Hall of Fame, Division of Math and Science SNU Senior Scholar, SNU Biology Senior of the Year-2014, Beta Beta Beta National Biological Honor Society -Vice President of Omicron Phi Chapter, Women in Science Representative 2013-2014, L.I.F.E. Student Representative and Scholar, NFCA All-America Scholar Athlete. She will be Attending Physician Associate Medical School at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center in Oklahoma City beginning June 2014.

Her parents are Dianna and Don Price.

Morgan Lynn Taylor

Henryetta High School



Morgan has been a part of the Girl Scouts of America for 13 years. She was a part of the Henryetta High School women's track team as 2011 regional team champions, 2011 regional team conference champions, 2011 1,600 meter relay regional champions, 2011 1,600 and 3,200 meter relay state qualifier.

Morgan participated in cheerleading for three years as part of the 2011 regional champion team, 2012 regional runner-up team, 2012 state qualifier and is a National Cheerleading Association Top All-American. She was a member of the National Honor Society for two years. She is a three year youth member and volunteer for the Okmulgee County Consortium.

Morgan is a member of the Raccoon Clan and Tukvpvtce Tribal Town. She is also a member of the Church of Christ and Arbeka Ceremonial Ground. Her parents are Mark Taylor and Leslie Crow.

Ashli Nicole Teague

Muskogee High School



Ashli graduated from Muskogee High School May 23, 2014. She is a member of the Oklahoma and National Honor Society, Muskogee High School Student Council, Alpha Adelphi Sorority, and a volunteer at Muskogee Hospital. Ashli has received many scholarships and will be attending Oklahoma State University in the Fall. Ashli currently lives in Muskogee, Okla., and is a proud Member of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribe.

Ashli is the proud daughter of the late Michael T. Billings and LareRonita Teague-Ratcliff. Ashli attends Evangelist Temple Baptist Church in Muskogee, Okla., where she is currently a youth leader and plays the piano.

Danyelle Elaine Trewin

Texas Tech University

Bachelor of Arts, Electronic Media and Communications

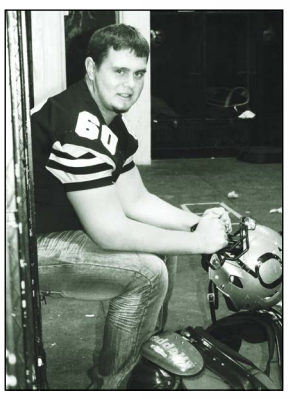


Danyelle is the daughter of Elaine Walker and Danny Trewin. Her grandparents are Johnny and Betty Wood of Eufaula, Okla.

Danyelle is a member of the Bear Clan, Tuskegee Tribal Town, Tuskegee Indian Baptist Church and Tuskegee Ceremonial Ground.

Nelson Gunnar Varner

Okemah High School



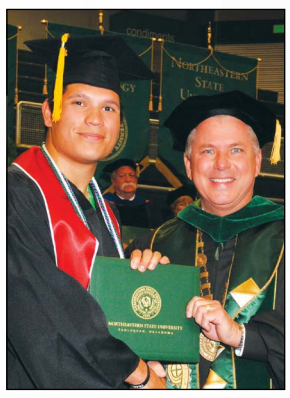
Gunnar has participated in powerlifting and football for four years. He is a two time state champion powerlifter as well as district 2A-5 first team all-district football. He has also participated in track and baseball. He has been a member of the Future Farmers of America and Este Cate Club and served as vice president of the Este Cate Club. His future plans include attending East Central University and majoring in education.

He is a member of the Wind Clan, Fish Pond Tribal Town, Last Chance Baptist Church and his parents are Joe and Candace Cheatwood.

Nicholas Aaron Whitlow

Northeastern State University

Bachelor of Science



Nicholas graduated May 10, 2014 Cum Laude from Northeastern State University. His accomplishments include: NSU Collegiate Scholars recipient, Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society in Education, NSU Academic Honors/Athletic Scholar 2009-2013, NSU Riverhawk Football letterman and starting fullback 2009-2013, All-MIAA Collegiate Athletic Conference Honorable Mention – fullback 2013, and MIAA Collegiate Athletic Conference Academic Honor Roll 2013.

Nicholas is a member of First United Methodist Church in Henryetta, Okla., Pakan Tallahasse Tribal Town and the Bear Clan. His parents are James and Carol Williams and Mike and Sherri Whitlow.

Stephanie Marie Wood

Case Western Reserve University

Bachelor of Arts, Biology



Stephanie is the daughter of Steve and Janice Wood. Her grandparents are Johnny and Betty Wood of Eufaula, Okla.

Stephanie is a member of the Bear Clan, Tuskegee Tribal Town, Tuskegee Indian Baptist Church and Tuskegee Ceremonial Ground.

Natalie Rose Zamora

Chapman University

Master of Science, Communication Sciences and Disorders



Natalie is a member of the Alligator Clan and Coweta Tribal Town. Her parents are Lewis and Esperanza Zamora, her grandmother is Abbie Berryhill and her great-grandparents are Celia Freeman Berryhill and Harrison Berryhill.

Scholarship Opportunities

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Higher Education Scholarship Foundation Program is now accepting scholarship applications for the Fall 2014 semester.

Deadline is June 6, 2014.

Applications can be found at creeknationfoundation.org

For questions please call

918-732-7754



Marissa Parker

"Exercising Sovereignty and Self-Determination through Traditional Gift Giving"

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Muscogee Nation News

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June 15, 2014
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Blackberry Month

2014 MCN Scholarship Pageant winners announced

Hill, Watson crowned 2014-15 royalty

Chelsie Rich/*Project Specialist*

TULSA, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation crowned the new 2014-2015 Miss MCN, Brittany Morgan-Hill and Jr. Miss MCN, River Nokvs-Yvhikv Watson June 7 at the River Spirit Event Center in Tulsa.

The MCN Scholarship Pageant is one of the first events to kick off the 40th Annual MCN Festival.

MCN Principal Chief George Tiger and First Lady Frances Tiger, MCN Scholarship Pageant Committee members, visiting royalty along with family and friends waited as three young ladies ages 17-24 competed for the title of Miss MCN and three ages 14-17 competed for the Jr. Miss MCN title.



MNN/Chelsie Rich

(L to R) Outgoing Miss Muscogee (Creek) Nation Rachael Sourjohn, MCN First Lady Frances Tiger, 2014-2015 Miss MCN Brittany Hill, 2014-2015 Jr. Miss MCN River Watson, MCN Principal Chief George Tiger and outgoing Jr. Miss MCN Breana Hill during the 2014 MCN Scholarship Pageant June 7 at River Spirit Event Center in Tulsa.

Each contestant had to write an essay, give a personal interview with the judges, prepare a self-introduction, wear traditional dress, present a traditional presentation and answer an impromptu question.

Prior to the pageant, Cherrah Giles, the Secretary of the Department of Human Services and a board member of the Scholarship Pageant Committee spoke about what they would like to see in the next Miss and Jr. Miss MCN.

"We definitely want to look for a young lady that has the maturity level to represent the Muscogee (Creek) Nation; that has the capability of speaking and being a true ambassador," Giles said.

MCN royalty are expected to be an ambassador for the Nation.

Some duties will include attending events across the United States, speaking at events when requested, along with other responsibilities.

"We can be requested to be anywhere in the world…whether it's elementary schools, the daycare; whether it's at the state capitol, the White House; these ladies will have that opportunity,"

Pageant - 4

Mvskoke Dome reopens in time for Festival

Litigation still on-going

Jessica McBride/*Editorial Assistant*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Multi-Purpose Building, also known as the 'Mvskoke Dome' was reopened to the public June 2.

The building was closed April 10, 2012 through an executive order, which stated that experts had deemed the building's strength and structural integrity compromised.

According to Project Manager Dustin Alphin, his department, MCN Tribal Construction oversaw the project to make the building safe.

"The main issue was that the stands themselves were said to be underdesigned; so it was the stadium seating that was actually remediated," Alphin said.

Alphin said that steel columns were brought in to reinforce the structure. He stated that work on the multi-purpose building is complete and the facility is now safe for use.

According to MCN Attorney General Roger Wiley, litigation concerning the facility is still pending.

The MCN National Council passed TR 13-011 and NCA 13-021 Jan. 26, 2013, appropriating $38,250 for DCI Engineers to furnish engineering plans for the remedial work.

The Council passed TR 13-129 and NCA 13-226 Sept. 28, 2013, hiring Creekside Management Group to perform the renovations to the facility and appropriating $1.083 million for the construction.

The Dome will be used for activities such as the basketball tournament June 21 during the 40th Annual MCN Festival.

MCN Tourism and Recreation Director William Lowe said that a 'soft opening' of the facility will boost the department to a new level.

Dome - 4

MCN Housing Department participates in SPIHA conference

Officials discuss tribal housing issues

Kyla McKown/*MNN Reporter*

CATOOSA, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Housing took part in the Southern Plains Indian Housing Association Spring Conference and Trade Show May 19-22 at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Catoosa, Okla.

The four-day conference featured panels on a variety of topics, including: housing data systems, methamphetamine: remediation, results and remedies, credit counseling, developing homebuyer education and a discussion panel.

The discussion panel touched on affordable housing in the future of Indian Country and ways to improve tribal housing entities.

MCN Principal Chief George Tiger sat on the panel, along with Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Bill John Baker and MCN Secretary of Housing Brad Fox along with other tribal housing officials.



MNN/Kyla McKown

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger (left,) along with Southern Plains Indian Housing Association Vice President and MCN Department of Housing Self-Monitoring and Program Manager Floyd Jones (right) participated May 22 in the SPIHA Spring Conference and Trade Show at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Catoosa, Okla.

Tiger shared his belief that MCN Housing is making continual progress; but still needs improvement in certain areas.

"There is a tremendous amount of people who've waited so long for good housing," Tiger said. "So, that's something we want to address as soon as possible."

SPIHA is funded through the Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act of 1996, which falls under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

MCN Housing Department Self-Monitoring and Program Development Manager Floyd Jones who is also SPIHA vice-president said the conference is a way for area tribes to share ideas and discuss the similar

SPIHA - 2

MvskokeMedia

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Muscogee (Creek) Educators help guide state efforts



MNN File Photo

Muscogee (Creek) educators, Greg Anderson, Superintendent of the Eufaula Dormitory and Robert Bible, President of the College of the Muscogee Nation, are among the 18 members of the Oklahoma Advisory Council on Indian Education.

Two citizens serve on renewed state council

Gary Fife/*Radio Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The group set up to provide some guidance on Oklahoma state policy in regards to Indian education has been given an extension.

The Oklahoma Advisory Council on Indian Education was extended until 2020 when Gov. Mary Fallin signed House Bill 3242 into law April 22.

Muscogee (Creek) educators, Greg Anderson, Superintendent of the Eufaula Dormitory and Robert Bible, President of the College of the Muscogee Nation, are among the 18 council members.

Other council members represent tribal governments, education groups, career technical schools and other college regents.

Anderson has been with the council since it began in 2010. He said their focus has been to set objectives and priorities for the state to follow as it tries to meet the widespread needs of Indian students across Oklahoma.

"Obviously, we recognize the unique relationship between Oklahoma and the 39 tribes that we have within the state," he said. "Our goal is, we want to work with those school districts that obviously have Indian education and create an environment that affords our students a greater opportunity for success."

The promotion of Native American language and culture in state public schools is one priority set by the council; but Anderson noted that it remains a challenge.

"We do have support, but of course, moving something like that forward; it's going to take a lot more effort. I think we're seeing some improvement, but we're not anywhere close to where we need to be."

One example is the teaching of Oklahoma state history. The 1889 Land Rush has always been a component of many courses, but the topic never included much discussion on the tribal history of those who owned that land.

"That has been discussed over the last four years, the Land Rush," Anderson said. "We had discussed, 'do we want that to be part of our curriculum?' Well, it doesn't tell the whole story and we want to have a balanced approach that, 'sure, that happened,' but we want to have a balanced approach."

In spite of their cultural diversity, Anderson said the state's different tribes share many of the same goals.

"I do believe that we have a lot of commonalities and I think, one: we care for our people and we want to educate our Native American youth; we want to offer the best education possible," he said. "I think that's what all 39 tribes strive to do; is create a better life for their members."

One topic of special interest is the development of charter schools, and Anderson pointed out that the MCN is a leader.

"I know that has been discussed and there's great support for it amongst the council," he said.

According to Anderson, with the current climate of fiscal conservancy and established educational structures, adding more Native American emphasis and content will not be easy to accomplish.

"I think there has been a lot of support shown. However, with a lot of things, you're going to run into some resistance; I'm sure," he said. "But, I trust our leadership to make the right decisions and to work with our state's leaders and public educators to accomplish this."

Bible has sat on the council since October 2013.

As an administrator in higher education, helping the council assist and direct Indian students toward post-secondary schools is very important to him.

"With our involvement, we give those Native students, I guess; choice in their higher education search," Bible said. "We have hosted a few of the schools from around the state."

Student testing has been a hot topic for Oklahoma educators.

"Right now, it's the student testing," Bible said. "They want to make sure that they monitor the results of the performance of our Native American students in state testing."

A news release from the State Department of Education Superintendent Janet Barresi stated that:

"Oklahoma's Native American students consistently outperform peers from across the nation on college and career ready indicators such as Advanced Placement participation and exams, National Assessment of Educational Progress tests, the ACT and the SAT."

Bible feels this success is due to the emphasis that state tribes place on education.

"So, I think, education has always been a priority for all of our tribal governments," Bible said. "I think now, with the tribal colleges developing, that we're starting to make a broader impact."

At 130,000 students, Oklahoma has the largest Native American student population in the nation.

LaSarge appointed tribal liaison for transportation council



MNN/Chelsie Rich

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Transportation Manager Charley LaSarge (second from left) was appointed as a new member of the Oklahoma Governor's United We Ride Council. Standing with LaSarge are council members (l to r): Irene Martin, Charla Sloan and Bob Brandenburg.

MCN manager named to state UWR Council

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Oklahoma Governor's United We Ride Council appointed Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Transportation Manager Charley LaSarge as a new member of their established board May 23 during a UWR meeting at the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped in Oklahoma City.

"I feel great being appointed to the United We Ride Council," LaSarge said. "It is a big responsibility but it is for the better of this state."

The Oklahoma Governor's United We Ride Council, was initiated by former Gov. Brad Henry in 2006 to identify needs and potential solutions for the effectiveness of transportation coordination.

"What we want is any departments that help with transportation and funding to be able to sit down and figure out what is best for our citizens when it comes to transportation," UWR Council Coordinator Irene Martin said. "We needed to get dialog started to help find out what the gaps, barriers and overall problems that we had for transportation."

Lack of transportation has prevented people from locating employment or getting to school or work. This issue also affects the general transportation needs of those with disabilities.

"All the barriers that we have lets the people from the State of Oklahoma know what is going on with these problems," Martin said. "Once they know what those are, they can do what needs to be done on finding the best solutions for these problems."

The UWR does not have legislative authority to address these issues but offers a voice for people who face these problems.

"We are a vehicle, sort of a clearinghouse of information for people to get together to be able to talk," Martin said.

LaSarge was selected by UWR to represent the state's tribes.

"I am glad to be on this council," LaSarge said. "It is going to be good to have that voice for Native tribes here in Oklahoma and their transit systems."

Martin is pleased with the new appointment.

"Charley came highly recommended," Martin said. "We felt lucky to get him to be a member on our council. We know his time is very valuable but he will give us his everything when representing the tribes here in Oklahoma."

SPIHA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

issues they face.

"One of the basic things in housing is to have a homebuyer education class," Jones said. "When someone moves into a housing unit, it's important to sit down and go over all the responsibilities that come with buying a house."

Credit counseling was another topic addressed during the conference, due to the lack of awareness and understanding of this topic among citizens.

"We have to fix that," Jones said. "There are so many dysfunctional things that come with credit."

During the affordable housing panel, Jones cited statistics from a 2003 U.S. Commission on Civil Rights report regarding the federal funding of Native American housing to explain a current issue faced by MCN.

"Within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, we've seen growth in our enrollment population," Jones said. "Since the report in 2003, our population has increased 31 percent. And during that time, federal funding for housing has decreased 22 percent.

According to Jones, the conferences are held quarterly as a way to provide technical training to the tribal housing entities in Oklahoma, Kansas, Louisiana and Texas.

VA director works to better hospital



MNN/Darren DeLaune
Jack C. Montgomery Veterans Affairs Medical Center Director James Floyd goes over his agenda for the day. The hospital oversees 37,000 veterans.

Citizen visits, listens to patients

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

MUSKOGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizen James Floyd has been director of the Jack C. Montgomery Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Muskogee for over two and a half years. He has been involved with the VA for a total of 17 years.

"I am from Eufaula," Floyd said. "I had this chance to come back home, so I took the opportunity to do that."

Floyd comes from a family that served in the military and some of his family members are patients at his facility. He receives advice from them on how to help improve the hospital from a patient's point of view.

Although he did not serve in the armed forces, he feels the need to do what he can to help veterans get the best treatment possible.

"Having family go through our hospital and get treated helps me on a more personal level," Floyd said. "They will tell me how they are being treated and if they are not happy with something. It does give me a gauge to how the other patients in my care are being treated."

Floyd has been helping people for as long as he can remember. Before working for the VA, he served at the Indian Health Service for over 10 years, and with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation before that.

"We have a lot of Native Americans that are veterans," Floyd said. "I was really involved with veteran issues because it seemed to be entwined with the Indian Health Service."

A typical day for Floyd begins around 6-6:30 a.m. at the hospital. He talks with the overnight staff and they give him updates on what happened and sees if there is anything that he has to deal with first thing.

Floyd will then go to his office and answer emails until about 7:45 a.m.; then heads to a meeting with the hospital's physicians. Another meeting begins around 8:30 a.m. to go over a plan for the day.

"I can usually get done around five in the evening or sometimes it can go a lot later," Floyd said. "Sometimes it can be up to 16 hours a day. Even when I am home, my phone is by me just in case if anyone on my staff needs to get ahold of me."

Floyd tries to carve out some free time to get out of the office. He feels that being in the office the whole day hinders him from solving problems.

"I will take some time to go talk to our patients and hear from them," Floyd said. "Sometimes they just want someone to talk to them and someone to listen. I am both. Plus, I need to hear from them on how we can make things more comfortable here at this hospital."

Floyd said some patients suggest that the hospital can be more comfortable and recommend what the staff can do for this. Some will talk about simpler things such as wild onions.

"I love the topics that the veterans will bring up," Floyd said. "It is one of the great things about coming back home."

Recently, there has been some controversy involving VA medical facilities.

A patient of the Claremore Veterans Center in Claremore, Okla., a state facility, died in 2012 after receiving first degree burns from a whirlpool tub at the hospital.

On the federal level, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki stepped down from his position May 30 following the discovery of nationwide issues involving the amount of time patients have waited to receive treatment.

"I have known the secretary and we have been good friends for a long time," Floyd said. "But you have to separate friendship from getting the job done. What is going on will not stop the veterans from coming in and being seen. We have to keep doing our jobs, bettering ourselves at our jobs; because we are doing it for the veterans."

After Shinseki stepped down, Floyd was around the hospital gauging the morale of everyone and told his staff he wanted two things from them.

"I want integrity in our system," Floyd said. "We need to focus on our jobs. If we focus on what is going on, there will be errors and that is the last thing that we want. I will back my people up everyday."

Although Floyd has a lot on his plate, he wakes up every morning looking forward to his job and doing everything he can to better the facility for patients and staff.

"I have a goal for everyday, that everything that I do gets accomplished," Floyd said. "I will try to get everything done because the next day will be another day with new challenges. It has the same pattern but there are different challenges in the pattern."

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Veterans Affairs Director Ken Davis spoke highly of Floyd. Davis feels that Floyd will do everything possible to help veterans.

"James Floyd is a great person for our veterans," Davis said. "I feel that the higher ups in D.C. need to come down here and see how he works. Then they will know how to get things done and how to get them done right."

CCA funds Phillip Deere roundhouse construction

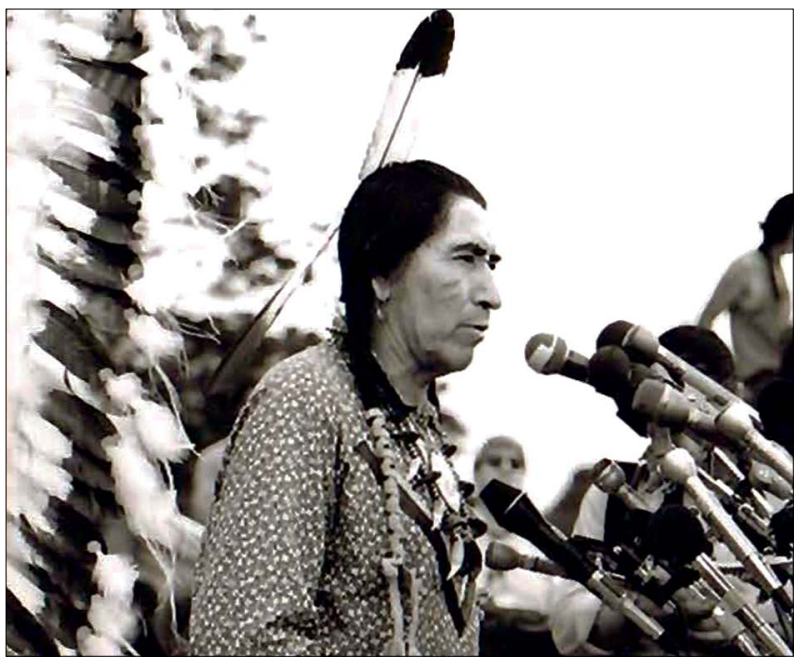


Photo Submission
The Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council has approved legislation for the construction of a roundhouse on an allotment belonging to the late Muscogee (Creek) citizen Phillip Deere's mother.

Traditional structure to offer cultural opportunities

Kyla McKown/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council approved legislation appropriating $50,000 during the May 17 regular session for the construction of a roundhouse on an allotment in Okemah, Okla., belonging to the late Muscogee (Creek) citizen Phillip Deere's mother.

The funds are to come from the MCN Cultural Center and Archives Department budget and construction is to be overseen by the MCN Tribal Construction Department.

The legislation, NCA 14-078, passed 8-6, with Reps. Shirlene Ade, David Hill, Pete Beaver, Darrell Proctor, James Jennings and Joyce Deere voting against it.

Jennings said he could not support the amendment because of the use of tribal funds for private property.

"I'm not against the cultural aspect of the tribe; at all," Jennings said. "If they were to say, 'lets build a roundhouse on the Omniplex by the Multi-Purpose Building;' I'd more than likely support it. The other issue brought up is, 'who maintains it.' "

The related legislation is also comprised of TR 14-073, which deals with the usage agreement between the Deere family and MCN.

According to the tribal resolution, the term agreement is for five years, with the opportunity to renew afterwards. It also states the Nation shall give 30 days notice to the roundhouse representative for a request to use the property.

As for general maintenance and repairs, the Deere family is responsible for all minor repairs, which cost less than $1,000; while the MCN General Service Assistance facility is to maintain repairs that cost more than $1,000 after recommendations are submitted to the Council for approval.

What is a round house?

According to 'A Sacred Path: The Way of the Muscogee Creeks,' "Creek roundhouses served several communities and settlements and were shared for regional conferences and council meetings. Creek roundhouses could hold hundreds of persons and were naturally round in shape; both on the outside and inside."

As for the Deere family roundhouse, Phillip Deere's son, Bonnie Deere, said building a roundhouse would fulfill his father's dream.

"We're going to fulfill the wishes of my father," Bonnie Deere said. "We want to talk about who we are as Native people. We're beautiful people and I want to at least teach one or two children who they are as Native people."

He said council meetings, senior citizen meetings, funerals, weddings, birthdays and retreats are all possible uses for the roundhouse.

The Deere family would particularly like to host Mvskoke traditional classes and opportunities for citizens to learn how to cook over an open fire and make traditional meals; much like a survival camp.

"Teach them how to make ballsticks, bows, arrows and how to hunt," Bonnie Deere said.

CCA Interim Director Justin Giles said the department saw the roundhouse as a source for Muscogee (Creek) citizens to learn their roots.

"Get citizens participating in their culture; whether it's churches, ceremonial grounds, fiddle dances and art markets," Giles said. "Anything that will involve our culture. We want to get them participating too."

Who is Phillip Deere?

Phillip Deere was a Muscogee (Creek) citizen who was known as a revivalist, traditionalist, spiritual leader and a human and civil rights activist.

He passed away in 1985 and has been remembered in Indian Country for his work toward Native American rights.

"He spoke at the United Nations on behalf of Native people," Bonnie Deere said. "He was chairman of nongovernmental organization committee for North, South and Central America on Native people in Geneva, Switzerland in 1977."

Giles said he grew up knowing of Deere but it was not until college that he became aware of his rhetoric and traditional Mvskoke knowledge.

"He'd talk about songs and what stompdance means and about our culture," Giles said. "So, I got to know him through his writings and quotes."

Now that the legislation has passed and was signed off by MCN Principal Chief George Tiger, the process should not take more than two months once all the financial and construction paperwork is completed.

"It won't take long to build it," Bonnie Deere said. "Right now, we're waiting on material and waiting on finances for the material. Once the paperwork and red tape is cut, signed and sealed through the tribe, we'll start working on it."

For information about the roundhouse or to schedule future events, contact the MCN Cultural Center and Archives Department at: 918-549-2434.

Ade sponsors appropriation to maintain student safety

WWT receives funding from Council

Amanda Rutland/*Media Specialist*

WETUMKA, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger and MCN National Council Rep. Shirlene Ade presented Wes Watkins Technology Center with a $2,000 donation June 3.

Ade sponsored NCA 14-050, which passed April 26. She said she sponsored the bill because Muscogee (Creek) citizens have graduated from Wes Watkins with the necessary skills to obtain jobs.

The donation will be used to buy materials to build ducts for the dust collection system in the construction trades program. Wes Watkins Superintendent Wade Waller and Service Careers Maintenance and Carpentry Instructor Billy Moore accepted the check on behalf of the school.

Moore explained that the school already has the air handling equipment but the duct work is needed to carry saw dust from the work area to the handling equipment.



MNN/Amanda Rutland
Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger and MCN National Council Rep. Shirlene Ade present Wes Watkins Superintendent Wade Walling and WW Instructor Billy Moore with a check for the WW construction trades program.

"The dust collections system is an integral part of keeping the air clean enough, keeping the dust down as much as we possibly can," Moore said.

Waller went on to say the lack of an operating dust collecting system is a problem.

"It is a safety issue for students; for the air quality that is required of us for our program," Walling said.

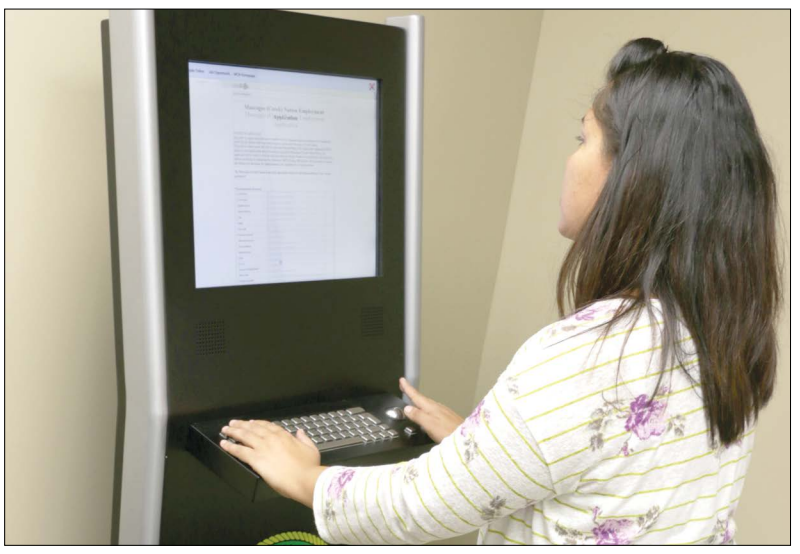
Moore plans to use the duct installation as a teaching tool by having the students install it.

"You can make it realistic for the students and give them an opportunity to understand why math is important and to measure twice and cut once," Waller said.

A citizen made Ade aware of the need and she wanted to help.

"I don't take the credit," Ade said. "The whole Council; they all supported it and voted for it."

MCN Human Resources working toward paperless system



MNN/Chelsie Rich

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Human Resources Department is moving toward a paperless system and began this process by eliminating paper job applications through online applications and a new employment kiosk located at the MCN Tribal Complex.

Job applications go electronic, workflow system to follow

Chelsie Rich/*Project Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Human Resources Department is transitioning to a paperless system.

For some time now, MCN Principal Chief George Tiger and his administration has discussed moving the Nation toward more electronic means of data entry and storage.

"I just feel like it's going to be more efficient and eliminate a lot of tasks that are now paper," said HR Personnel Specialist Greg Walker.

HR began this process by eliminating paper job applications, which has saved countless hours of copying and filing applications by hand.

"That was the first step in moving towards a paperless environment," Walker said.

Today, all job applications are done electronically.

HR employees are now able to sort applications with just the click and a drag of the mouse.

A person may apply for a position by going online to www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov/Pages/Personnel/personnel.html or by using the kiosk set up near HR on the complex.

"They can apply anywhere they have Internet access either from home, library or a state employment office. But if they don't have access to any of that they can come into the complex and fill out an application," said Walker.

These electronic outlets also list available positions with the MCN Department of Health and the MCN casinos.

This system does not speed up the hiring process but it does expedite the process of sorting applications and placing them into the correct folders.

"As far as an application being able to be put into the general bucket of applications, yeah it's faster," said HR Labor Relations Coordinator Melissa Culley

Applications will no longer be scanned, copied or filed by hand.

HR has received more applications since the electronic process was implemented.

"We want to get the message out to all Creek citizens that the kiosk is here and it's available to apply for our positions," Walker said.

Bringing in the kiosk was just the first of many steps towards a paperless system at HR.

Within the next few weeks, the department will go live with Laserfiche, a program that is designed as a workflow process database.

This software will allow data to be transferred electronically from department to department.

"We'll have workflows established so that a lot of processes will be replaced with electronic workflows as opposed paper forms and paper processes," Walker said.

This means there will be no more paper forms to fill out.

"It will eventually impact the whole Nation… because eventually, all departments will be onboard," said Culley.

Walker listed two objectives that HR would like to accomplish with the new workflow process.

The first objective is to eliminate file cabinets in the department that hold paper copies of all MCN employees' personnel records.

All of these records will be scanned into the system.

The second goal is to electronically streamline all HR processes such as benefits, W-4 changes and eventually timesheets.

"It's going to be a big change for Creek Nation…because it's going to change every process that people currently do," Culley said.

For more information contact MCN HR at: 918-732-7827.

Dome

Continued from Page 1



MNN/Jessica McBride

The 'Mvskoke Dome' is now open for use for events, recreational sporting games and fitness workouts.

"Well the opening actually solidifies our portion of being tourism and recreation," Lowe said. "With this building, it helps us actually get into the health and wellness portion of the industry as far as recreation goes."

Lowe said that TR employees returned to office in the building April 2, and have been preparing to open the facility to the public since then.

In the future, the department hopes to be able to utilize the facility for trainings, nutrition classes and recreational events that go hand-in-hand with tourism.

"The venue is perfect for anything really. It seats over 2,000 people; so that's a great advantage for us to really cash in on that opportunity," Lowe said.

The 'Mvskoke Dome' is open 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday-Friday. Besides the basketball court, the facility is also equipped with treadmills, weights and other workout machines.

Currently, there is not a charge to workout in the facility, but that may change in the future.

TR Recreation Coordinator Rojer Johnson said that eventually, the facility may be open to the community and that the hours may change.

"We definitely want to extend the hours in the evening and in the morning, and on the weekends as well," Johnson said.

Lowe said that the department looks forward to seeing citizens working out at the facility.

"This gym is for our citizens; so come out and see us and get healthy with us," Lowe said.

For more information about the MCN Multi-Purpose Building contact the MCN Tourism and Recreation Department at: 918-732-7991.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

IN THE MATTER OF:	)	
	)	
J. R., DOB: 09-22-2009	)	
A. Y. T-R., DOB: 01-31-2011	)	
A. L. T-R., DOB: 05-07-2012	)	**Case No. JV-2014-03**
J. R., DOB: 03-19-2014	)	
	)	
Alleged Deprived Children.	)	

JUVENILE SUMMONS

THE MUSCOGEE NATION to: Manuel Sanchez, Natural Father of Jonathan Rivera

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a Petition has been filed in the Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation alleging that the above-named children are deprived children and that, as the parent of said child(ren), you have been named as the Respondent, all as more fully set out in the Petition.

YOU ARE THEREFORE ORDERED TO APPEAR at the Courtroom of the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee, Oklahoma, on the 1st day of August **2014** at the hour of 9 :00 A **m.** for an **Adjudication Hearing** and to there remain subject to the call of the Court until discharged so that you may be advised of the allegations and may answer that you admit or deny the allegations of the Deprived Petition.

You may seek the advice of any attorney on any matter relating to this action at your own expense. Or, if you are qualified as indigent, an attorney can be appointed for you.

IF YOU FAIL TO ATTEND THIS HEARING, YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS MAY BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED AND YOU MAY BE CITED FOR CONTEMPT OF COURT AND A BENCH WARRANT MAY BE ISSUED FOR YOUR ARREST.

Issued this 22nd day of May 2014.

Debbie Kung
Deputy Court Clerk
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court

[Seal]

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
STATE OF OKLAHOMA OKMULGEE COUNTY
The undersigned hereby certifies this instrument to be a full, true and correct copy of the orginal, as the same appears on the record in the District Court Records
Witness this 22nd day of May 2014
Debbie Kung
Court Clerk
Dep

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For more info, find us on the web at
www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov

Pageant

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Giles said.

Hill's traditional presentation utilized storytelling to give an account entitled, 'The Journey of our Mvskoke Women,' which was accompanied by her personal illustrations.

"I am so humbled and honored to represent the fourth largest federally recognized tribe in the United States, the great Muscogee (Creek) Nation… I'm just looking forward to representing our people to the best of my ability," Hill said.

Watson performed with her guitar 'Down to the River and Pray' in both the Mvskoke and English languages.

"I feel very excited to represent our people… I really look forward to talking to young people; I want to explain to them about Creek Nation and our people, how we are thriving," Watson said.

Tiger and First Lady presented Hill and Watson with their sterling silver crowns, sashes and rose bouquets.

They received a fully beaded crown, cedar crown box, banner, matching shawl, plaques and a woven basket purse.

Hill will receive $2,000 cash along with a $2,000 scholarship and Watson will receive $1000 cash.

The outgoing 2013-2014 Miss MCN is Rachael Sourjohn and Jr. Miss MCN is Breana Hill.


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MCN Child Support Enforcement sees increase in demand

Department offers variety of services to Native Americans

Kyla McKown/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — After only five years in service, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Office of Child Support Enforcement has collected more than $1 million in child support during the 2014 January-March quarter.

MCN Child Support Caseworker J.R. Wind and Legal Assistant Jade Taylor spoke with 'Mvskoke Radio' Communications Technician Gary Fife about the department and what it has to offer.

Wind said that each worker stays busy, handling hundreds of the department's 3,000 approximate cases each year.

"The numbers are getting higher," Wind said. "Each year, we get more and more throughout the year. Jade does more paternity tests and when that goes up; our case numbers go up in CSE."

The CSE can provide services to any citizen within the MCN jurisdiction as long as the custodial parent is a citizen. The child does not have to be enrolled. Services are also open to any Native American.

Taylor said that in order to expedite the process for new cases, custodial citizens with Internet access should fill out applicable forms online. These forms along with a list of services are available online at: www.mcnchildsupport.com, which include: child support enforcement as well as paternity and genetic testing for the custodial and absent parents.



Taylor put an importance on the way citizens may perceive CSE.

"We try to steer away from the negative connotations with child support," Taylor said. "We focus on positives to bring families together. We stress it's something not done to you but we're here to help you and answer questions; and we're here for the children."

Wind and Taylor also said citizens should see it as a way to help them budget for the absent parent.

"We use income assignment as a tool and it's not even a bad thing," Taylor said. "Really it helps everyone. They don't have to remember a payment and can be broken up on a pay schedule. People think wage garnishment is a bad thing but really; it's a good thing."

Tribal CSE offers several benefits that are not included in state services.

"If it's clothing, we can direct them to the clothing program, direct them to Social Services, even Employment and Training," Taylor said. "They help us out and we have resources to direct people to and it's a comfort."

According to CSE Case Specialist Norman Frank, MCN CSE child support payments are tax-free.

Absent parents are also able to apply working credits toward their monthly support payment.

"Another benefit of tribal is that the absent parent can do services," Frank said. "Like if the absent parent cut their grass, the custodial parent can give them a certain amount of credit instead of the state, which is just monetary."

For more information about MCN CSE, call: 918-295-0800 or 1-800-482-1979.

Program assists with Social Security benefits application process

SSA provides liaison for citizens

Kyla McKown/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Social Security Assistance Program was started in 2006 to assist Muscogee (Creek) citizens with the U.S. Social Security Administration applications and benefits process.

MCN Social Security Assistance Program Liaison Coordinator Lillian Thomas believes SSAP addresses a previously unmet need among Muscogee (Creek) citizens.

"A lot of them don't understand the notices they get from Social Security," Thomas said. "And the people who needed to file for benefits, they might file and if they get denied; they don't know they can appeal it."



The program's four-person staff is able to assist with citizen assessments via phone or walk-ins, which allows SSAP to assist Muscogee (Creek) citizens who live outside of the 11-county jurisdiction.

The staff assists with: filing for retirement, disability benefits, survivor benefits and the Supplemental Security Income program, which depends on the income and resources of the family.

"It's administered by the SSA and is a program based on need," Thomas said. "Children that are disabled, they can file for SSI because it's different from Social Security."

Before deciding the necessary paperwork for each claim, a case manager conducts an initial assessment with clients where they will be asked for identification information and a brief description of the claim.

Although the program doesn't handle the actual claim, it does work as an advocacy resource for citizens in order to ease the process.

"We want to help them set up appointments and assist them in furnishing evidence or explaining their notices," Thomas said. "Mainly just help them to understand the process."

Last year, the department assisted 656 clients.

According to Thomas, the biggest problem they see is the sizable denial rate for disability claims. She said it's important to have medical records to back the claim, but that can be a problem for citizens who use Indian Health Service.

"Some don't go to the doctor; even though they're disabled," Thomas said. "When they go to the clinic, they don't see specialists. So the clinics will treat them and their records aren't there."

However, the retirement filing process is generally much smoother.

"We had one man, we took his claim and told him it'd be 30 days before he got his award letter," Thomas said. "He contacted us the following week and had his money."

For more information regarding the MCN Social Security Assistance Program, call: 918-549-2479. Walk-ins are also welcome at their office, which is located on the MCN Tribal Complex at the McCombs building in Okmulgee, Okla.



Citizen pursues Ph.D. through fellowships



Submission

After graduating with a Master of Science from Purdue University in West Lafayette, Ind., Muscogee (Creek) citizen Patrick Freeland plans to pursue his Ph.D. in Natural Resource Economics, Security and Conservation.

Freeland researches American Indians and climate change

Kyla McKown/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Patrick Freeland attended Haskell Indian University, where he took part in two summer internships that changed his research interest forever.

When Freeland first came to Haskell, he wanted to study alternative energy sources but that was quickly replaced by the issue of climate change in Native American communities.

After graduation, Freeland moved to West Lafayette, Ind., to pursue his Master of Science at Purdue University where he graduated this May from the Ecological Sciences and Engineering Interdisciplinary Graduate Program.

Freeland said Purdue seemed fitting; considering he knew another Muscogee (Creek) citizen who had recently made the transition from Haskell to Purdue.

Before graduating with his Master of Science, Freeland spent the past year researching for his graduate thesis. That is when he realized the need for research and awareness regarding Native Americans and climate change.

"When you look at the amount of published literature about American Indians and climate change, it's only about a half-inch thick stack of papers," Freeland said.

While attending Purdue, he was able to receive two prominent fellowships to go toward his thesis research and tuition. He also has had the opportunity to speak at Purdue's Native Center throughout his graduate career.

"We recently featured a Sterlin Harjo movie," Freeland said. "People from all over the planet, the only experience they've had with American Indians is reading an article about the Redskins mascot. So, we have the chance to talk about culture, point out certain words in the movies and stuff like that."

Freeland plans to pursue his Ph.D. in Natural Resource Economics, Security and Conservation. In the meantime, he is looking for opportunities to teach on the college level.

"There's potential to work at Northwest Indian College in Bellingham, Washington, and that'd be nice," Freeland said. "I also hear Haskell may be hiring soon and that'd be interesting."

Although Freeland said he is a few years off from receiving his Ph.D., his ultimate goal is to start a family and be productive in society.

"Find a family; support them, and have a good life doing that," Freeland said. "And do something productive with climate change. You see a lot of people talking about it but few are working on it and actions are the solution."

He is a member of the Wind Clan, Tallahassee Indian Methodist Church and Big Cussetah Ceremonial Ground.

MCN citizen graduates with double degrees



Submission

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Minnifee Wilson graduated with two college degrees May 8 at the Eddie Warrior Correctional Center in Taft, Okla.

Wilson pursues education while incarcerated

Amanda Rutland/*Media Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Minnifee Wilson worked eight-hour days at a full-time job and attended night classes four nights a week for the last two and a half years.

On May 8, she received two degrees, an Associate of Arts in general studies and an Associate of Science in business administration from Conners State University.

Wilson did not believe that earning a degree was possible for her.

"When I came to prison, I thought my life was just over with," Wilson said.

Wilson grew up in the Twin Hills Indian Community and is from Duck Creek Ceremonial Ground. She attended Concharty United Methodist Church.

"I was raised up in a Christian environment with my culture," Wilson said.

Wilson dropped out of high school her sophomore year and got married at 15-years-old. Wilson explained that alcohol, drugs and gambling led to her incarceration in 2010.

After being transferred to Eddie Warrior Correctional Facility, Wilson asked EWCF College Coordinator Trish Baker about attending school.

"The staff members they led me in the direction I knew I should have been in a long time ago," Wilson said. "I wanted to go on a better pathway than I was headed toward."

Wilson received funding from the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and began taking college courses in the fall of 2011.

Baker explained that inmates do not receive any kind of federal funding such as Pell Grants or workstudy.

"If they are not tribal members, it is basically out of your own pocket," Baker said.

Wilson made the vice president's honor roll and received a graduation stole from the MCN Higher Education Department.

In her speech, she thanked the Nation.

"I would like to say Mvto, "thank you" in my Native language to my tribe, Muscogee (Creek) Nation for your support and faithfulness. This achievement would not have been possible without you," Wilson said.

Then, she addressed her fellow graduates.

"We can become the role models we are capable of being, not reflecting where we came from, but where we are going. We now have the power to change our lives. God has a good future planned for both you and I," Wilson said.

Wilson said she dreams of opening a business after she is released.

"I like the restaurant business; maybe something cultural," Wilson said.

Wilson offered encouragement to other people.

"Don't let the past define your future. Instead let the future define you and the best way to predict your future is to create it," Wilson said.

For now, Wilson wants to continue her education.

Citizen wins AICF Student of the Year



MMN/Amanda Rutland

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Brandi Scott was the student respondent April 26 during the commencement ceremony for the College of the Muscogee Nation's sixth graduating class in Okmulgee, Okla.

Scott reflects on time at CMN

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

FORT SMITH, Ark. — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Brandi Scott did not know what to expect when she arrived in Okmulgee, Okla., to attend the College of Muscogee Nation back in 2012.

"My first thought was to go ahead and get done with school and get it out of the way," Scott said.

Scott graduated April 26 from the College of Muscogee Nation with her Associate Degree in Tribal Services. She also became CMN's first recipient of the American Indian College Fund Student of the Year scholarship.

"I am amazed at everything here at the College," she said. "And to be selected as the first recipient for the student of the year; words cannot describe it."

Scott has lived in numerous states throughout her life including: South Carolina, North Carolina, Arkansas and Oklahoma.

"I have moved around a lot," Scott said. "Different places and different things; so you adapt to the areas. I always tell everyone that Anderson, South Carolina is a lot like Okmulgee; except no Natives."

Through encouragement from her mother, Scott decided to continue her education and chose to attend CMN during her first visit to the college.

"We went to tour the school," Scott said. "I remember we came on a Friday and that evening after the tour; we were filling out the information to attend the school. We found out that school began the following Tuesday."

Scott started classes in the 2012 spring semester and she was one of the first tenants to stay in the CMN dorms.

"I stayed in my dorm room for a little while," Scott said. "I always wondered if all the other students wondered if I was stuck up or what."

Scott was amazed to see how the faculty, staff and other students warmed up to her when she started at CMN. She said that is what drew her to the young school.

"Everyone is friendly here," Scott said. "There is a positive energy about this place and that energy is in everyone."

Scott is amazed at how much of the Mvskoke language she has learned in a short amount of time.

"At first, learning the Mvskoke language; I thought, 'OK, I can learn another language,' " Scott said. "But this is my language; this is my culture and heritage. So it has a more special meaning being able to be taught my language."

Scott has been busy during her time at CMN.

She was selected as a student advocate at the American Indian Higher Education Consortium winter meeting in Washington, D.C. She also competed on the Knowledge Bowl Team at AIHEC in Billings, Mont.

"It was great being selected for those," Scott said. "I never thought that I would be selected for any of those when I was going to school."

Although she has graduated, Scott still plans to get her Certificate in Mvskoke Language when she returns to CMN in the fall.

Afterwards, she plans to get her Bachelor of Science and Doctorate Degree in Psychology.

"I have always wanted to help people," Scott said.

Scott is a member of the Locv (Turtle) Clan and Koweta Tribal Town.



MMN/Amanda Rutland

Muscogee (Creek) citizens Brandi Scott (left) and Alicia Mitchell (right) April 26 during the commencement ceremony for the College of the Muscogee Nation's sixth graduating class in Okmulgee, Okla.

Citizen rings the "No More Chemo" bell



MMN/Chelsie Rich
Muscogee (Creek) citizen Charlie Keith rang the "No More Chemo Bell" April 25 at the University of Oklahoma Children's Oncology Clinic in Oklahoma City to celebrate the completion of his chemotherapy.

Keith celebrates remission with ceremony in OKC

Chelsie Rich/*Project Specialist*

OKLAHOMA CITY — Muscogee (Creek) citizen, Charlie Keith rang the "No More Chemo Bell" April 25 at the University of Oklahoma Children's Oncology Clinic in Oklahoma City to celebrate the completion of his chemotherapy.

On March 24, 2012, Jordan and Jeremy Keith of Oklahoma City were given news no parent ever wants to hear.

Their son Charlie was diagnosed with stage IV neuroblastoma, which is a rare form of childhood cancer that develops in the sympathetic nervous system.

"It turns into the flight or fight response and you just fight. You just wake up and do what you got to do," Jordan said.

The cancer had already spread through 60 percent of Charlie's body including his bones and bone marrow.

"It really builds character. It's a horrible thing to go through but once you go through it; you're a much stronger person," said Jeremy.

After 741 days, 10 rounds of chemotherapy, two meta-iodobenzyl-guanidine therapies, two stem cell rescues, one stem cell transplant, 12 rounds of radiation, three and a half rounds of immunotherapy and six months of accutane, Charlie and his family were finally given the news they had been waiting for.

Charlie is NED, which means he has no evidence of disease.

When Charlie was three-years-old, he made a wish to the Make A Wish Foundation.

"His specific wish was to be a cowboy with cactus, so they sent us to Arizona," Jordan said.

On April 17, Charlie's wish came true.

When asked what he did on his trip, Charlie responded, "great things!"

Charlie spent a few days riding horses and saw plenty of cacti with his parents.

He went to the petting zoo where he met a baby goat also named Charlie.

"He got to live his dream," Jordan said.

When Charlie returned from Arizona, he was given the honor to ring the "No More Chemo" bell at OUCOC.

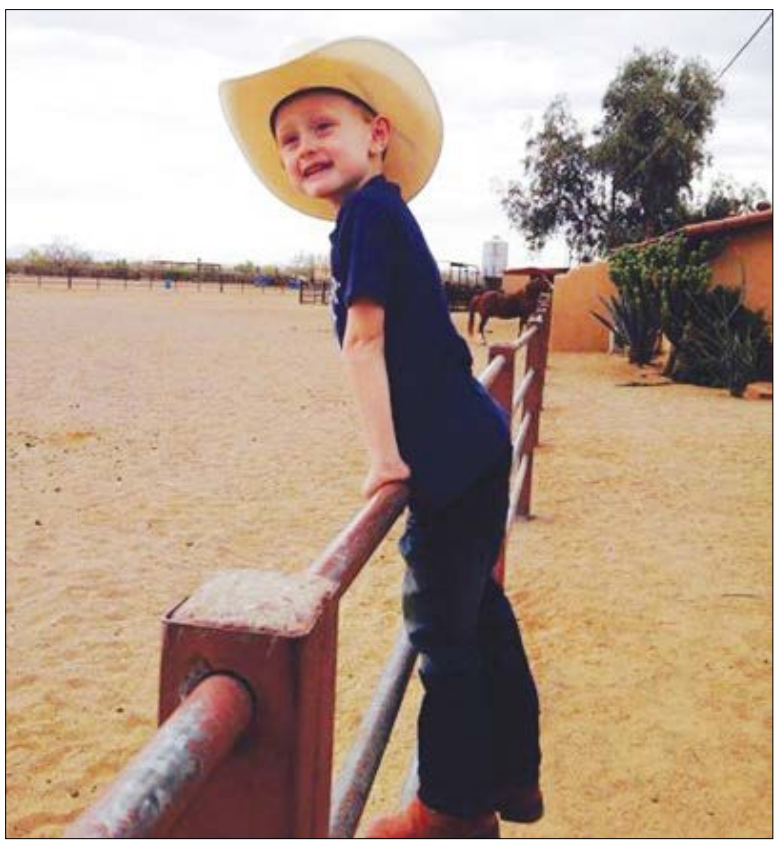
Family, friends and medical staff all gathered and sang while Charlie rang the bell.

He was given many hugs afterwards.

"It's not over, but the hard part is," Jordan said.

Charlie will be under close monitoring for the next five years.

Charlie, also known as a hero or superhero, will now get to spend more of his time doing what he loves; being a cowboy; playing outside in the dirt; playing with dinosaurs and superheroes and supporting the University of Oklahoma Sooners.



MCN National Council representative features: Shirlene Ade



MNN File Photo
Shirlene Ade, Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Tukvpvtce District Seat A representative

Ade remembers past, looks toward future on Council

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

WETUMKA, Okla. — Shirlene Ade has been a member of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council since 2004 as a representative for the Tukvpvtce District.

At first, Ade did not understand what function the Council served for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. She understood that in order to run for a seat successfully, that would have to change.

"In order to better prepare myself with the Nation and with the Council, I started going to the meetings," Ade said. "I believe getting prepared was the help I needed for when I wanted to run for Council."

Ade had a lot of citizens in her area that wanted her to run. They felt that she could help change the MCN.

"I had several people ask me to run for National Council," Ade said. "I prayed about it first before I registered for the election."

When Ade started as a representative, she received advice from current and former Council members. But there was one piece of advice from her sister Christine McIntosh that has stayed with her.

"My sister always told me that there are two sides to every story," Ade said. "I always take that with me; because you have to hear the pros and cons before you decide on the choices that you make."

Ade feels that without the help of her colleagues, she would not be as big of a help to the citizens as she is now.

"I can happily say that every member that I have worked with on the Council, whether current or former members; have been a big help to me," Ade said. "They have shown compassion to me when I was starting and they have shown it to me even though I have been with them for 10 years."

Ade feels that education is a big part of what can help this Nation to keep growing.

"I believe in education," Ade said. "I believe that it can help this Nation get better and stronger. Our younger citizens need to know how important it is to get that diploma and to get that degree."

Ade feels that she shares some of the same goals as some of the other representatives and that being on the same page has helped out among them.

"The College of Muscogee Nation being accredited is a big goal for all of us," Ade said. "That will be done soon so that is a big step for this Nation. There are other goals out there that I want to see us as a Council move forward on. With all of us in agreement, I feel that we can during this session."

Ade has something that she wants to leave to share with the citizens of MCN.

"To everyone that voted for me in the elections that I ran in, thank you for your confidence in me," Ade said. "To everyone that did not vote for me, I am still your representative; please come and talk to me."

Muscogee (Creek) citizen signs with HFWBC



MNN/Darren DeLaune
Whitney Donathan (center) signs her letter of intent to play at Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College next season while her high school principal, superintendent, parents and new coaches look on.

Donathan to play for Free Will Baptist Saint

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

HENRYETTA, Okla. — On May 12, Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College women's basketball coach Hannah Moeller added Muscogee (Creek) citizen Whitney Donathan to her squad for the 2014-2015 basketball season.

Donathan feels this is the right place to continue her education and to get to do what she loves, learn about God and play basketball.

"It is a blessing to be able to go to school and play on the next level," Donathan said. "I want to thank Hillsdale for giving me the opportunity to further my career."

She was accomplished in her four years at Wilson High School in Henryetta, being named to All-Conference every year.

"It has been fun," Donathan said. "The competition here and when I played in the summer has helped me to get ready for next level."

Donathan enjoyed her high school career. She feels that the friendships that she made will be with her forever.

"The friends that I made here will always have a place in my heart," Donathan said. "My high school classmates and team will always be there for me and I will be there for them; if and when they need me."

She had other schools throughout Oklahoma pursuing her but she felt that the best fit for her would be at HFWBC.

"The way the team took me in was great," Donathan said. "They gave that extra effort in welcoming me and I thank them for that. They made me feel at home."

Her new head coach, Moeller is excited about having Donathan join her team.

"We host a tryout every year for seniors," Moeller said. "Her offensive skills are very exceptional. Once we got to know her, it wasn't only basketball that we liked. We love her demeanor, attitude, and ability to communicate. She is a great person and we are proud that she is going to be with us."

Donathan's high school basketball coach, Andrea James shared her excitement about the Hillsdale opportunity. James was her coach for four years.

"I am excited for her," James said. "They will take good care of her at Hillsdale. I am excited to see what she develops into as a player and as a person."

Donathan is ready for the next challenge in her basketball career.

"Coach Moeller is going to do everything to help get me better," Donathan said. "I am going to do everything to make sure I do not let this team down. They will be pushing me to be my best and I am going to be pushing them as well."

Muscogee (Creek) citizen blends opera with culture



Submission
Muscogee (Creek) citizen Dr. Kirsten Kunkle has commissioned and premiered 16 musical pieces based on the poetry of her great-great-great uncle Alexander Posey.

Soprano recognized on national level

Jessica McBride/*Editorial Assistant*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The opera can bring about connotations of glorious renaissance architecture, full-skirted ball gowns and the belting voices of performers serenading the audience in a language few understand.

For Muscogee (Creek) citizen and soprano Dr. Kirsten Kunkle, the opera is a beautiful genre of music for the common man.

"There's a preconceived idea that opera is scary or opera is only for the rich and elite and I don't think that that's true at all," Kunkle said.

The assistant professor of voice and opera workshop at Lincoln University in Oxford, Pennsylvania teaches opera as an approachable art.

Kunkle believes that exposure is the key to appreciating opera.

"I think people are often surprised that children really like opera," Kunkle said. "They like the dramatic elements. They like the fairy tales that are set to music."

Kunkle grew up in Freemont, Ohio, and began her path in music with her parents support. She learned to play the piano, violin and clarinet; but nothing moved her like opera.

Kunkle attended Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, Ohio, for her undergraduate degree in voice performance. She gained the opportunity to study abroad at the University of Salzburg in Austria.

Her doctoral dissertation in vocal performance from the University of Michigan featured pieces comprised of poetry from her ancestor Muscogee (Creek) citizen Alexander Posey combined with music.

"It kind of melded the two different parts of my life being both Mvskoke and European American," Kunkle said. "That kind of brought some Mvskoke culture into my music."

Her performance of the poetry was acquired by the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian. The Smithsonian also added Kunkle to the list of Classical Native Artists and Musicians.

Kunkle wrote an article entitled 'Maintaining Native Heritage: Songs Based on the Poetry of Alex Posey,' which detailed the process of pairing the poems with classical music. The article was published in the fall 2013 edition of 'The Lincoln Humanities Journal.'

Because of her experience in music development, Kunkle has been approached to help create other musical compositions.

"I get to create something that has never been done before while bringing new audiences to classical music; which I think is really important not just as a singer but also as a Native singer," Kunkle said.

In February 2014, Kunkle received the Pennsylvania National Association of Teachers of Singing Artist Award.

Kunkle sings in many languages from Italian to German. She hopes to incorporate Mvskoke culture in her vocal performances in the future by singing in Mvskoke.

"I think it's just very important to know from where you come so you can maintain that cultural heritage; but also be able to embrace it and bring a part of that into the world that you live in," Kunkle said.

Kunkle is a member of the Wind Clan and Broken Arrow Tribal Town.

For more information about Kunkle and to hear recordings of her music visit: www.kirstenckunkle.com or www.youtube.com/kirstenckunkle.

New art gallery opens at RiverWalk



MNN/Chelsie Rich
Timothy Nevaquaya recently opened Nevaquaya Fine Arts gallery at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation owned RiverWalk business development in Jenks.

Native artist shares his passion through business

Chelsie Rich/*Project Specialist*

JENKS, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation welcomes the new gallery, Nevaquaya Fine Art to the RiverWalk business development.

Owner Timothy Tate Nevaquaya is a member of the Comanche Tribe and is originally from Apache, Okla.

Nevaquaya has been surrounded by traditional Indian arts and culture all his life.

"I got started when I was a child by observing my dad and attending a lot of the ceremonies," Nevaquaya said.

He is the son of the famed Comanche artist and flautist, Doc Tate Nevaquaya; who inspired him to become an artist.

Nevaquaya started by drawing first and then progressed into painting.

"I started painting the Apache Mountain Spirit Ceremony until later on in my life; it became a primary focus of my work as well as the Comanche warriors that I was a descendent of," Nevaquaya said.

Nevaquaya has been painting professionally for 27 years, but has only been a full-time artist for the past 10 years.

Not only is Nevaquaya an accomplished artist, he is also a composer and flute maker and uses his rich musical knowledge in many of his paintings.

One evening after having dinner on the RiverWalk with his wife, Nevaquaya noticed the empty spaces available for lease and decided it would be a perfect place to put his art gallery.

Nevaquaya Fine Arts represents American Indian arts and artists who express the uniqueness of Native culture in traditional and contemporary forms.

"There's always got to be something very unusual about it…so I really let myself explore almost on the edge of abstraction, but yet there is a bit of realism," Nevaquaya said.

Nevaquaya Fine Arts coordinated with the Greater Tulsa Indian Art Festival association to host their monthly luncheon May 20 and plans to host more events at the gallery in the future.

The gallery exhibits pieces by: Ruthe Blalock Jones, Jack 'Blackhorse' Tointigh, Doug Crowder, Starr Hardridge, Bob Creeping Bear, Richard Sanders and George Curtis Levi, Calvert Nevaquaya and Timothy Nevaquaya's father Doc Tate Nevaquaya.

Nevaquaya Fine Arts is located at RiverWalk suite 120 in Jenks and is open Monday – Saturday from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

To contact Nevaquaya Fine Arts call: 580-291-9572 or email: nevaquaya@yahoo.com.

Muscogee (Creek) conductor illustrates emotion through directing



Photo Submission
Muscogee (Creek) citizen Timothy Long describes conducting as an emotional experience that begins with intense study of each musical composition.

Long describes preparation as a fact finding mission

Jessica McBride/*Editorial Assistant*

OKMULGEE, Okla.— When Muscogee (Creek) citizen Timothy Long prepares to conduct a musical performance, he prefers to spend time alone.

Long prepares by studying the music, relaxing and building his focus on the upcoming performance. The anticipation helps him escalate his confidence before he takes the stage.

"So you arrive at the theater just feeling absolutely on top of the world like you're ready to do anything," Long said. "If only we could do that with all aspects of our lives."

Before he takes the stage, Long feels that he is expected to already have a historical background of the composer and extensive knowledge of the music in order to guide the musicians.

The process of studying that Long moves through in preparation for a performance uses a detective process by collecting evidence and sorting through the facts of the musical piece. He combs through the music during rehearsal little by little.

The performance is emotionally driven.

"By the time a performance comes around you kind of ride the emotional structure that you've built," Long said.

The emotion conveyed through Long's conducting comes from the music, his mood and the group of people that he is working with.

Long relays his inner thoughts and emotions to the audience and musicians by matching the motions of his conducting to the feelings conveyed through the music.

"If there is something that is completely mysterious where we should feel a little bit lost in the music; if you're being really, really sharp, then you're going to destroy that," Long said.

For marches, Long may conduct forcefully and swiftly. He may use subtle gliding motions when conducting a waltz.

Beneath the surface of organizing the musicians in time and tempo, Long uses his conducting to unite everyone on a musical ride through the roller coaster of emotions.

"I think that's one of the reasons I like it, because you're always telling stories," Long said. "The more you invest in something, the more extreme the experiences are."

One of the compliments Long has received is on his great conducting hair.

Long, who is also Choctaw, grew up in Holdenville, Okla., playing piano and teaching himself other musical instruments. He holds degrees in piano from Oklahoma City University and the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, N.Y.

Currently, Long is an associate professor at Stony Brook University in Stony Brook, N.Y. He has performed at the Juilliard School in New York City, conducted for the New York City Opera and appeared with Salvatore Licitra on NBC's Today Show.

Long's mother influenced his love for classical music as a child by filling the house with the sounds of Beethoven symphonies and piano concertos.

"I feel like being Native guided me towards classical music," Long said.

Long's advice for success is to practice and build confidence.

"Have no fear, move forward and find your passion," Long said.

Long is a member of the Wotko Clan and Thlopthlocco Tribal Town. His parents are Stella Long and the late Fred Long.

To read more of Timothy Long's accomplishments visit: www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/music/aboutus/faculty/long_timothy.html.

Native program aims to conserve butterflies, create jobs



MNN/Jessica McBride

Jane Breckinridge and David Bohlken promote their Natives Raising Natives program in an effort to save the butterfly population and facilitate Native employment.

MNBE, MCN SBDC help fund startup

Kyla McKown/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — After more than 20 years of working with butterflies, one tribal citizen and her husband want to get other Native Americans interested in butterfly farming.

Jane Breckinridge and David Bohlken have held butterfly exhibits and fly houses at state fairs around the country. Now, they are back in Oklahoma settling on Breckinridge's family allotment, which is now the Euchee Butterfly Farm.

Breckinridge and Bohlken have also started a program that could impact Musogee (Creek) Nation and its citizens in several positive ways.

"Part of it is Native employment. Part of it is conservation and pushing science education to Native youth. Because on the university level, Native youth are really under represented in sciences and the scientific fields," Breckinridge said.

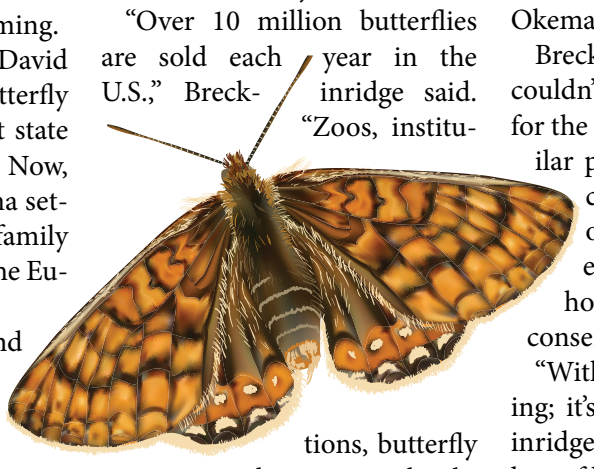
Natives Raising Natives is a program offered to anyone with a specific focus on MCN and other tribes.

Through the program, citizens can sign up and raise butterflies on their own, which will then be collected at the headquarters and sold at a wholesale level through contracts. The citizens will be paid for each butterfly.

Breckinridge said this is a perfect opportunity as a part time job for a stay-at-home mother or anybody.

And potentially, it could become a full-time job.

"Over 10 million butterflies are sold each year in the U.S.," Breckinridge said. "Zoos, institutions, butterfly houses, schools, weddings and funerals; it's more than a $64 million industry."



Natives Raising Natives received start-up assistance through the MCN Small Business Development Center and Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise. It has since been in touch with other tribes that are interested in learning more about butterfly farming.

The program partnered with Thlopthlocco Tribal Town April 12 for the kick-off event, which brought more than 150 Native Americans who were interested in learning more.

The citizens left the event with host plants, seeds and the basic fundamentals of raising butterflies.

Natives Raising Natives plans to have headquarters to buy butterflies back at the Euchee Butterfly Farm in Leonard, Okla., and at the Thlopthlocco Tribal Town headquarters in Okemah, Okla.

Breckinridge said she couldn't take complete credit for the program idea since similar programs have had success in Costa Rica and other countries. However, she believes Oklahoma is the perfect area to conserve butterflies.

"With monarchs disappearing; it's several things," Breckinridge said. "One key thing is loss of habitat. With new GMO crops killing all the milkweed; what used to thrive is gone."

Bohlken sees a successful future for the program.

"Sitting on the edge of three distinct ecosystems," Bohlken said. "Top of the Ozark Plateau, Great Western Desert, Great Prairie and the Transitional Forest."

For more information about Natives Raising Natives and the Euchee Butterfly Farm, visit: www.nativebutterflies.org or call: 918-366-0964.

Department strives to 'go green'



MNN/Chelsie Rich

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Telephony Department purchased a Polaris Global Electric Motorcar, known as the 'GEM,' in an effort to 'go green.'

Telephony purchases total-electric vehicle

Kyla McKown/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Telephony Department is doing its part to help the MCN's efforts to become as environmentally friendly as possible.

Telephony recently purchased a Polaris Global Electric Motorcar, known as the 'GEM,' to mitigate fuel emissions and air pollution.



The idea came about due to the increasing awareness in recent years of air pollution and its effects, as well as the rising fuel prices in the U.S.

MCN Telephony Technician Haden Dunn said the total-electric vehicle is perfect for the department's work around the MCN Tribal Complex.

"Here on campus, we're stopping and going, stopping and going," Dunn said. "And that's when you use the most fuel; rather than straight ways. So, it makes sense we'd save a lot on fuel here."

The GEM is street legal except on highways and it can go up to 25 miles per hour. The car will go up to 50 miles on a full charge.

Dunn said they expect to save at least $200 a month in fuel. The car, which uses six car batteries, is considered low maintenance.

"You also have to look at wear and tear on tires, oil changes on the vehicles; and this car doesn't have that," Dunn said. "Other than recharging, the new batteries have a lifespan of about five years."

However, Dunn said that the batteries could last up to eight years depending on the usage of the vehicle.

According to Dunn, there are other MCN departments, including facilities, that might be making the switch to an all-electric car.

"Hopefully, everyone can see it and think it's the way to go," Dunn said.

Telephony Technician Ted Tamage believes this is a small effort to preserve our jurisdiction.

"Telephony can't prevent smog or pollution but if we all make the switch in our daily lives; we can prevent it," Tamage said.

The Polaris GEM's come in a variety of colors and available seating rows.



OBITUARIES

HARVIE LEE GUINN

BEAUMONT, Texas — Harvie Lee Guinn, 78, of Dayton, Texas, died June 2, 2014, at the Christus St. Elizabeth Hospital in Beaumont.

Harvie was born Nov. 27, 1935 in Seminole, Okla., to parents; William I. and Dora M. Snow Guinn, a former resident of Corpus Christi, Texas, and has resided in Dayton for the past 30 years. He was a retired machinist from Austin Industries, volunteered with the Boy Scouts of America and little league, and was registered with Muscogee (Creek) Nation. He also enjoyed hunting and fishing.

Mr. Guinn was preceded in death by: his parents; wife of 59 years, Nancy I. Orsack Guinn; daughter, Pamela Sue Mills; sisters, Rachael Christine Guinn and Ora Loretta Huntington, and brother-in-law, Gordon Huntington, Sr.

He is survived by: his son, Ron L. Guinn and wife Michelle of Dayton; daughter, Patricia A. Griffin and husband Terry of Dayton; grandchildren, Joshua and Michael Mills, Beverly and Derek Guinn, Keegan Griffin, Stacy Sutton, Tonya Gangluff and husband Paul; five great-grandchildren and numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Funeral services were set for June 5 at the Pace-Stancil Funeral Home Chapel with burial following at Magnolia Park Cemetery in Dayton. Services are under the direction of Pace-Stancil Funeral Home in Dayton.

Leave your thoughts and memories for the family in the guestbook at: www.pacestancil.com/.

SALLY WHITLOW-HOLUBY



OKEMAH, Okla. — Sally Whitlow-Holuby, a lifelong resident of Dustin, Okla., passed away May 17, 2014 in Okemah at the age of 90. She was born Dec. 23, 1923 in Dustin to Edward Whitlow and Minnie (Harjo).

Sally is a mother of the Thewarle Indian Baptist Church in Dustin.

She was preceded in death by: her parents, Edward and Minnie Whitlow; husband, Sandy Holuby and son, Larry Holuby.

Sally is survived by her children, Sam Gene Whitlow of Dustin, Joe Holuby and wife Brenda of Morris, Okla., Geraldine Thompson of Henryetta, Okla., Nora Mae Treadway and husband Thomas of Bixby, Okla., and Anna Lou Holuby of Dustin; brothers, Eugene Whitlow of Dustin, and William Whitlow of Chicago; sisters, Dorothy Whitlow of Glenpool, Okla, Maggie Baptiste of Tulsa, Okla., and Allice Wattie of Los Angeles; 12 grandchildren and a host of great-grandchildren, and great-great grandchildren as well as a host of other relatives and friends.

Funeral Services were set for May 21 at Thewarle Indian Baptist Church with Rev. John Wayne Tulsa and Deacon Barton Looney officiating.

Interment followed at Fairview Cemetery in Dustin under the direction of Integrity Funeral Service.

ELIZA BUTLER- MITCHELL

HANNA, Okla. — Eliza Jane Butler-Mitchell, a lifelong resident of Hanna, passed away May 31, 2014 in Hanna at the age of 82. She was born Sept. 26, 1931 in McIntosh County, Okla., to Eddie Sam Butler and Lucy (Harjo).

Eliza attended the House Of Prayer Church in Hanna.

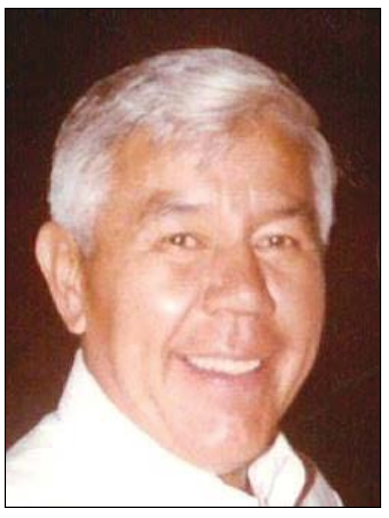
She is preceded in death by: her parents; husband, James Mitchell; daughter, Sally Mitchell; one sister, three brothers; one grandson, two granddaughters, and one great-great-grandson.

Eliza is survived by: son, Larry Joe Mitchell of Hanna; daughter, Linda Sue Mitchell of Oklahoma City; grandchildren, Christopher Joe Yocum, Larry Joe Mitchell Jr., Kristy Jo Mitchell, Matthew Miller, April Miller Luzmaria Perez, Luann Mitchell, Jennifer Deere, George Deere Jr.; six great grandsons, four great-granddaughters, one great-great grandson, and one great-great granddaughter expected in October 2014, as well as a host of other relatives and friends.

Viewing was set for June 2 at Integrity Funeral Service.

Graveside services were held at Hanna Cemetery June 3. Services are under the direction of Integrity Funeral Service.

AMOS PARTRIDGE



BLUE EYE, Mo. — Amos "A.D." Daniel Partridge, Jr., 78, passed away peacefully in his favorite chair May 20, 2014 after battling pulmonary fibrosis. His wife Darlene of 27 years was by his side at their home on Table Rock Lake in Blue Eye.

Amos was a full-blooded citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and grandson of Tulsa's first inhabitant, Noah Partridge. He was born Dec. 2, 1935 at Claremore Indian Hospital to Nora Watson Partridge and Amos D. Partridge, Sr. After the passing of both parents, Amos lived at Murrow Indian Orphan's Home in Muskogee, Okla., from 1943-1951.

Amos attended high school at Haskell Institute in Lawrence, Kan., from 1951-1955. He excelled in track and football, and could easily outrun his children well into his 60s.

As a young man, Amos was often looked after by his aunt Josephine Bruner, who once sent him $100 for a train ride, which he spent on candy instead. Amos entered the U.S. Army upon graduating high school, serving his country from 1957 until retiring in 1977. He served two tours in Vietnam, the second of which he claimed to serve on behalf of Dick Cheney, who had other priorities in the '60s. His military career included time spent in Vietnam, France, Germany, Texas, and Hawaii, with the five years in France being his favorite.

In 1966, Amos married Myra Jones, and adopted his two 'ready-made' daughters, Sharon and Sheryl.

His second wind came with the birth of his daughters Shawn and Shelby, in 1975 and 1979, who he adored. He and Myra later divorced. Upon retiring from the Army, Amos worked for the Tulsa District Corps of Engineers, where he caused trouble daily until retiring in 1997.

Amos married Darlene Tope, mother of four, in 1987 in Tulsa. Both strong-willed and adventurous people, their life together was full of travel, entertaining and good friends.

Amos is remembered for never meeting a stranger. He once loaned his army coat and last $10 to a hitchhiker, only to have it returned by mail with the $10 and candy for his daughters, weeks later. He was a jokester and a storyteller, and couldn't resist giving 'bunny ears' when posing in pictures.

Amos was a die-hard University of Oklahoma fan and his favorite times were spent watching and attending Sooner football games, fishing, boating, noodling (the flotation device) and driving his beloved Porsche, 'Little Red.' Amos was actively involved with Haskell Alumni until his illness.

He was an unbelievable cook and was best known for his amazing omelets, fried potatoes and SOS, as well as his beans, fry bread, ribs and potato salad.

Amos was preceded in death by: his parents and siblings Bobby Partridge, Kenneth Partridge, Homer Partridge, Mildred Baker, and step-daughter, Melanie Tope.

Survivors include his: wife, Darlene; sister, Mary Partridge of McAlester, Okla.; and four awesome daughters, Sharon Puente and husband David of Eugene, Ore., Sheryl Campuzano and fiancé Jerret Rita of Tulsa, Shawn Partridge and husband Boo Billy of Tulsa and Shelby Partridge of St. Louis, Mo., and step-sons, Jeff Tope and wife Penny of Athens, Ohio, Greg Tope and wife Renee of Sarasota, Fla., and Pat Tope and wife Lorna of Columbus, Ohio. Amos is also survived by many family members including nieces, nephews, granddogs, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren; including his most recent grandson and namesake, Tushka Daniel Partridge-Billy.

Lastly, he is also survived by a host of friends from all over, including his neighbors from Twin Island Estates, who were always there to provide friendship and support. He will be greatly missed.

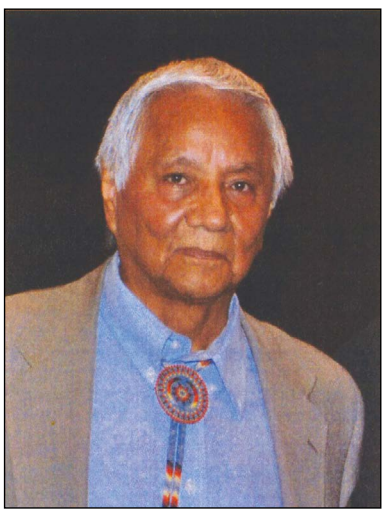
Wake services were held on Memorial Day followed by a funeral service May 27. All services were held at Smith Funeral Home in Sapulpa, Okla., and officiated by Rev. David Dunson. Mvskoke Nation Honor Guard provided military rites.

A meal was also served following the service at the Sapulpa Indian Community Center. Memorial contributions may be made to Salvation Army or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Amos' family wishes to thank everyone for the thoughts, prayers and support provided to them.

Special thanks to Rev. David Dunson, Jean Berryhill, Bill Alexander, Wotko Long, Social Services, Mvskoke Nation Honor Guard, Elderly Nutrition Program, Sapulpa Indian Community, LuAnn Bear, Debbie Ridge, Mary Harjo, JoJo and Kim Martel and the staff of the Family Violence Prevention Program for your support and assistance in the celebration of Amos' life. MVTO!

KENNETH TAYLOR



SHULTER, Okla. — Kenneth R. Taylor was born April 24, 1943 at the Claremore Indian Hospital in Claremore, Okla., to Hully and Alice Burgess Taylor. He spent most of his formative years in the Schulter area.

When entering high school, he elected to attend Haskell Institute in Lawrence, Kan. It was here he met his wife, Luanna. They married shortly after graduation and eventually made their home in Los Angeles.

Ken obtained his bachelors degree from Vanguard University and his masters from Azusa Pacific. In 1975 he was offered a teaching/coaching position at Sherman Indian High in Riverside, Calif.

He thoroughly enjoyed his job coaching both basketball and cross-country. He was especially proud of the several CIF championships his cross-country team garnered for the school. In 2010, he was given the honor of being inducted into the CIF coaches' hall of fame because of these wins!

After 25 years of service at Sherman, Ken retired as school administrator. Before retirement, Ken was actively involved in local church athletic leagues and the American Indian Athletic Association, competing on bowling teams, softball and basketball. His basketball team was the Jayhawks.

Throughout the years in Los Angeles, he was privileged to sit on several boards of various American Indian organizations. He took these board appointments very seriously.

He served as church administrator here at his home church, Indian Revival Church. He was very active in ministry handling the monthly men's prayer breakfast, making hospital visits and helping those in need wherever he was needed.

Ken was preceded in his death by: his parents Hully and Alice Taylor; brother, Marvin and sister Bertha.

He is survived by: his wife, Luanna Vann Taylor, of the home; son Kenny, Santa Fe, N.M.; daughter Kristin and husband Robert, Anaheim, Calif.; brother Nelson and wife Inez, Los Angeles; sisters Irene Aguilar, Santa Fe, Buna Lou Taylor, Lawrence, Quannah Suwonihaya and husband Shawn Santa Ana, Calif.; grandson Timothy, Evans, Colo.; granddaughter Adrienne, Zuni, N.M. and Renee, Anaheim; Choctaw brother Claude Sumner and Kiowa brother Dave Geimausaddle as well as a host of in-laws, nieces, nephews and friends. He will be greatly missed.



MVSKOKE NATION Festival June 26-29

www.creekfestival.com

Citizens share excitement for Festival



MNN File Photo
2013 Ms. Indian Rodeo Soni Clifford rides for the opening of day two of the 2013 All-Indian Rodeo Finals during the 39th Annual Muscogee (Creek) Nation Festival.

Citizens list favorite parts and importance of annual event

Gary Fife/*Radio Specialist*

OKMULGEE, OKLA. — The fun and excitement of the 40th Annual Muscogee (Creek) Nation Festival is coming June 26-29.

The annual celebration will see Mvskoke traditions mix with sports, rodeo, arts and crafts and headliner entertainment at several locations throughout Okmulgee, including the Claude A. Cox Omniplex and MCN Tribal Complex.

Tribal citizens are already getting excited about enjoying the festivities, meeting friends and relatives, tasting the treats and checking out the musical acts.

The 'Muscogee Nation News' took some time out to gather some insight about the Festival from Muscogee (Creek) citizens by asking the following questions:

1. What's your favorite part of the Festival?

2. Why should the tribe put on the annual event?

Here is what they had to say:

Jimsey Chalakee, Sapulpa

1. The food. I do like the entertainment. In the past couple of years, they've had really good entertainment. Really enjoyed it.

2. I believe because Creek Nation needs to have their name out there. I think we're doing good. I think it's a chance to get together, to come back and see home folks. Those who have gone out of state to live in other areas of the country; I think they look forward to coming back and visiting their families, their friends—where they grew up.

Jennie McNac, Okmulgee

1. The rodeo and all the food. The food is good and it's different. I like the rodeo because it comes once a year and the entertainment.

2. For everybody to come to Okmulgee and enjoy themselves. Just come out and enjoy themselves.

Chris Hill, Okmulgee

1. I like the concerts; that's what I like. (Motown) I like that kind of music. Sometimes I get to go backstage and meet some of them. (Country) That's pretty good. I like the one coming up, Diamond Rio.

2. I think it's really important for people to gather, meet people you haven't seen in a while.

Cecil Harry, Mounds

1. The ceremony when they dance on Thursday nights here and the softball tournament. I'm an ex-player, long time ago.

2. It's like a homecoming for a lot of them. Me, too, I've been away so long. I like to see old faces that I hadn't seen in a long time and just a good homecoming for me.

Danny McKinney, Tulsa

1. Seeing all my people and friends, my relatives. I like the entertainment part, all the big name acts coming in.

2. Exposure for our tribe. We're the fourth largest tribe in the nation and we like to showcase what we have here.

Iona Roan, Okmulgee

1. I haven't ever seen it, but I know everybody likes it and I know that it gives them all an opportunity to go in and they sell their stuff there. The biggest thing that I know that seems to be happening is people are coming together to really teach the young people.

2. You know what they're doing is reclaiming their heritage. They're reclaiming everything, the language. They're reclaiming being able to do the dances the way they want to. They're actually investing their money in terms of growing this country.

Shalee Cook, Okemah

1. I like the entertainment and being able to gather and socialize with everyone. (Country or Motown?) I like both. I'm not picky; I listen to all kinds of music.

2. I think it's important because it brings everyone together. It lets you celebrate our heritage and our culture and our history. It just allows all to gather and get together, be a part of something big.

Art and Food Market to return for Festival



Festival Volunteer/Tony Rutland
People browse booths and talk with vendors June 15, 2013 during the 39th Annual Muscogee (Creek) Nation Festival.

Cultural Center and Archives add to downtown attraction

Amanda Rutland/*Media Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Cultural Center and Archives Department is preparing for the 40th Annual Muscogee (Creek) Nation Festival.

They will be hosting the Council House Art and Food Market June 27-28 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. on the MCN Council House lawn in downtown Okmulgee.

This year, CCA has partnered with 1240AM, KOKL - Okmulgee radio, the Okmulgee News Network and Okmulgee Main Street Inc., a non-profit organization that is committed to the economic development of the downtown Okmulgee area.

CCA Interim Director Justin Giles said the art and food market will encompass, both Native and local artists this year.

"Through that collaboration, we really wanted to make sure we not only provided an art and food market for our Muscogee citizens, for and by Muscogee people; but also open that up to the Okmulgee citizens as well. That is indicative of what the Council House represents," Giles said.

The art and food market will not be limited to the Council House lawn. The streets surrounding the Council House, except 6th Street, will be closed off. Food vendors will be placed on the west side of the Council House and a beer and wine garden will be overseen by OMS.

CCA Special Projects Coordinator and Okmulgee City Council Member Chris Azbell said the City Council has approved the sale of beer and wine for festivals.

On the southern side of the square, a stage will be set up for live music from multiple musicians. According to Giles, three bands have confirmed at this time.

KOKL will be broadcasting live from the art and food market.

For more information contact CCA at: 918-549-2428.

CCA was renamed from the MCN Museum Cultural Center and Archives through NCA 14-076, which was approved May 17 by the MCN National Council.

Giles believed a name change would better represent them as a department.

"Museum just the word museum, sometimes has a bad stigma or stereotype in indigenous communities," Giles said. "The Cultural Center is a place of doing…It's a place to come and be active; to participate in your culture."



Festival Junior Olympics offer fun fitness activities



MNN File Photo
Contestants compete in the 39th Annual Muscogee (Creek) Nation Festival Junior Olympics

Competition to entertain participants, spectators alike

Evan Tansey/*College Work Program*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation is preparing for the 40th Annual Muscogee (Creek) Nation Festival. One of the many events that will be taking place during the Festival is the Junior Olympics.

The Jr. Olympics will take place 8 a.m., June 27 at Harmon Stadium, 601 E 12th St. in Okmulgee.

The event is held for children ages 6-15. The Jr. Olympics allows children to participate track and field sporting events. The events are broken up into categories based by age and gender.

The track events include: 1 mile, 400 meter relay, long jump and the 400, 200, 100, 50 and 30 meter dash competitions.

The field events are: the softball throw, hoop shoot, jump rope and tug-of-war.

Last year, over 550 children participated in the Jr. Olympics.

"We had kids from all over the state, as well as out of state, like Dallas," said Bryan McGertt, Jr. Olympics coordinator.

The event takes volunteers to run the activities.

"It is an all day event. We have up to 90 people who participate as volunteers. I appreciate all the volunteers who come out for this event who make this happen," said McGertt.

MCN Department of Public Relations Interim Director Edwin Marshall believes the event is enjoyable for spectators and participants alike.

"I know that these kids look forward to that every year and we get big crowds to come out and watch the kids and the kids just love it," Marshall said.

For more information including age ranges on each event, contact the MCN Tourism and Recreation Department at: 918-732-7992 or visit www.creekfestival.com.

Dawes Commission play made into movie



Courtesy Ric Denney
Muscogee (Creek) citizen Bob Hicks (center) on the set of his movie 'The Dawes Commission' with cast and crew.

Hicks makes dream a reality

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A play by Muscogee (Creek) citizen Bob Hicks called 'The Dawes Commission' debuted at last year's Muscogee (Creek) Nation Festival.

This year, Hicks' dream came to fruition when he finished filming his movie by the same name.

"My background is in film, so to be able to do this means a lot to me," Hicks said.

The film explores events surrounding the Dawes Commission. The purpose of the Dawes Commission was to persuade the relocated Five Civilized Tribes to accept a federal policy, which divided tribal lands into allotments owned by individual tribal members rather than living in a communally held territory.

"The purpose was to allot lands to Indians, not just in Oklahoma, but all over," Hicks said. "My movie, however, will be focused on a family within the Muscogee tribe."

Pre-production for the film started in February. The office and set location had to be scouted out for the movie. A crew from California was selected to help with the setup. Interns were also there to see movie making from behind the scenes.

"My point was to hire as many Native people as I could, majority of them Creek," Hicks said. "I was very happy because 95 percent were Native and 90 percent are Creek that were helping us."

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Lillian Thomas, who plays Sookie in both the play and the film, spoke on the difference between both.

"Both the play and the film were new experiences for me," Thomas said. "The difference, to me, was that the play was live and you have an audience right there with you. On film, if you mess up, you can redo it again. But for film they do a lot of close-ups on you. So both play and film can get nerve-wracking in their own respective ways at times."

Like the play, the dialog of the movie will also be in the Mvskoke language. There will be subtitles at the bottom of the screen for translation. No changes were made other than adding more characters to the movie.

"This film has to be in the Mvskoke language," Hicks said. "It would not be the same. We wanted to add more characters and that is really the difference."

The cast and crew feared minor situations would cause a delay in production, but that was not the case.

"There are always going to be problems, minor or major that could affect production," Hicks said. "Fortunately for us, the setbacks we did have did not delay us at all. We still finished on time."

Hicks would like to have this movie submitted for an Academy Award. One of the requirements for the movie category he would like to enter is that the film can be no longer than 40 minutes.

"I will be entering it into the Short Live Category," Hicks said. "I hope to have the length of the movie at about 34 minutes."

Hicks hopes to have everything completed for the movie by mid-September. He is working on having a special screening in Tulsa, Okla., around that time.

"That is my time table to get everything done." Hicks said. " I want to invite everyone to be able to see this movie."

Festival Map




MVSKOKE NATION
GREAT SEAL OF THE
MUSCOGEE NATION I.T.
2014
20th Festival 40th ANNUAL
JUNE 26–29
LIVE IN CONCERT
JUNE 27
KIX BROOKS
DIAMOND RIO
JUNE 28
THE JACKSONS
also appearing CRYSTAL SHAWANDA
ART • FOOD • RODEO • PARADE
5K RUN • SPORTS TOURNAMENTS
CULTURAL EXHIBITIONS
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT • CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES
SENIOR ACTIVITIES • JR OLYMPICS
FREE ADMISSION
BUDDY GUY
OHIO PLAYERS
also appearing MARTHA REDBONE
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MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
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TOURISM & RECREATION
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MVSKOKE NATION Festival Schedule of EVENTS

CREEKFESTIVAL.COM

ALL EVENTS OCCUR AT THE CLAUDE COX OMNIPLEX UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

SATURDAY, JUNE 7
6:00PM MCN Scholarship Pageant
—River Spirit Event Center, Tulsa

SUNDAY, JUNE 15
6:15AM Muscogee (Creek) Nation Bass Classic
—South Point Pavilion at Eufaula Cove

FRIDAY, JUNE 20
6:30PM Slow Pitch Softball Tournament

SATURDAY, JUNE 21
8:00AM Slow Pitch Softball Tournament
9:00 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament_Adult
—*Mvskoke* Dome, Claude Cox Omniplex

SUNDAY, JUNE 22
8:00AM Slow Pitch Softball Tournament

THURSDAY, JUNE 26
6:00PM Stomp Dance
—Claude Cox Omniplex

FRIDAY, JUNE 27
8:00AM Golf Tournament (4-man scramble)
—Fountainhead Golf Course, Hwy 150, Checotah
Junior Olympics
— Harmon Stadium, 601 E. 12th, Okmulgee
Senior Citizens' Activities
—Senior Housing, Polokse Circle, Okmulgee
9:00 Traditional Skills
—W. of Mound, MCN Complex
10AM Children's Fun Fair
10AM-4PM Council House Art & Food Market
—Council House, 106 W. 6th, Okmulgee
5:00PM Arts & Crafts/Food Vendors
6:00 LIVE ENTERTAINMENT_Crystal Shawanda
Fast Pitch Softball Tournament
INFR Tour Rodeo—Bob Arrington Rodeo Arena
7:30 KIX BROOKS
9:30 DIAMOND RIO

SATURDAY, JUNE 28
7:30AM 5k Walk/Run
—E. Side of Mound, MCN Complex
8:00 Fast Pitch Softball Tournament
Horseshoe Tournament
Golf Tournament (4-man scramble)
—Fountainhead Golf Course
Rodeo SLACK—Bob Arrington Rodeo Arena
9:00 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament_Youth
—*Mvskoke* Dome
Corn Stalk Shoot_Youth
—W. of Mound, MCN Complex
Volleyball Tournament
10:00 Festival Parade, 6th Street, Okmulgee
Corn Stalk Shoot_Adult
—W. of Mound, MCN Complex
Children's Fun Fair
Child Safety Seat Check—MCN Complex
10AM-2PM Health Fair
10AM-4PM Council House Art & Food Market
11:00AM Arts&Crafts/Food Vendors
2-4:00PM RJ & Jay Paul Molinere—*Mvskoke* Dome
2-6:00PM Creek Hymn Singing/Gospel Singing
—Mound Building, MCN Complex
5:00 MARTHA REDBONE
6:00 OHIO PLAYERS
6-8:00 INFR Tour Rodeo Finals
7:30 BUDDY GUY
9:30 The JACKSONS

SUNDAY, JUNE 29
8:00AM Fast Pitch Softball Tournament



WIN ME!

POLARIS RZR 570 EFI
PURCHASE TICKETS @ FESTIVAL GIFT SHOP
$5 EA OR 5 TICKETS FOR $20
DRAWING HELD AFTER
THE OHIO PLAYERS PERFORMANCE
ON THE MAIN STAGE

Shuttle Service Available Every 20 Minutes June 27&28, 5:00p.m.– 11p.m. Housing Divsion Parking Lot & Parking Lot East of the Mound

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION TOURISM & RECREATION 918.732.7992 CREEKFESTIVAL.COM

MCN Community and Tribal Events

All Indian Golf Tournament set for June 27-28

CHECOTAH, Okla. — The 2014 Muscogee (Creek) Nation Festival Golf All Indian Golf Tournament is set for June 27-28 at Fountainhead Creek Golf Course in Checotah, Okla.

For more information contact Fountainhead at: 918-689-3209.

CMCA meeting set for June 28

ANAHEIM, Calif. — A meeting of the California Muscogee (Creek) Association is set for June 28 from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Tribal TANF Office, 5771 Rickenbacker Rd., Commerce, CA 90040.

The meeting will be a time for fellowship and to remember the kind deeds of deceased CMCA President Ken Taylor. There are also several board positions open.

There will be no Okmulgee visitors for this meeting.

For more information contact George Windes at: georgewindes@gmail.com.

Murrow Indian Children's Home Powwow set for June 28

MUSKOGEE, Okla. — The third annual Murrow Indian Children's Home Powwow is set for June 28 at Bacone College Palmer Center, 2299 Old Bacone Rd., Muskogee, OK.

For more information contact Betty Martin at: 918-682-2586.



Neighborhood meeting set for July 5

RYAL, Okla. — The Salem-Ryal Fire Department annual neighborhood meeting is set for 2 p.m., July 5 at the Salem-Ryal Fire Department, Rt. 2 Box 385, Henryetta, OK, 74437.

Two seats on the board are up for election.

Mvskoke language VBS set for July 7-10

DUSTIN, Okla. — The Mvskoke Language Preservation Program has set a Mvskoke language immersion vacation bible school for kindergartners-adults July 7-10 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. daily at Faith Baptist Church, 36 Seamon St., Dustin, OK.

For more information contact the language program at: 918-732-7724.

McCombs reunion set for July 5

EUFAULA, Okla. — The annual family reunion for descendents of Rev. William McCombs is set for July 5 at the Eufaula Indian Community Center, 121 W. High St., Eufaula, OK 74432 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Please bring a pot-luck dish to share at the noon luncheon.

For more information contact Bud McCombs at: 918-689-7001.

TCIC Elections set for Sept. 18

TULSA, Okla. — The Tulsa Creek Indian Community has set an election for the chairperson, secretary, treasurer and sergeant-at-arms board positions for Sept. 18 from 6-8 p.m.

The deadline for letters of intent and $20 payment for background checks is July 23 by 5 p.m.

For more information contact Roman Powell at: 918-695-2781

MCN Child Care Office announces CACFP

Media Release

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Office of Child Care announces its participation in the Child and Adult Care Food Program.

All participants in attendance are served meals at no extra charge to the parents.

In accordance with federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, participating institutions are prohibited from discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability.

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, D.C., 20250-9410, or call toll-free: 866-632-9992. Individuals who are hearing impaired or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at: 800-877-8339 or 800-845-6136 (Spanish).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

CORRECTION

The graduate profile for Alexandria Renee' Mosquito that ran in the June 1 edition of the 'Muscogee Nation News,' omitted her paternal grandparents Craig and Debbie Mosquito, of Mounds, Okla., and that she is of the Bird Clan and New Tulsa Tribal Town.

The MNN regrets this error.

MCN SRO June schedule

Media Release

WETUMKA, Okla. — The following is the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Southern Regional Office schedule for the remainder of June.

June 17 - Tax Commission
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Lunch: 11-11:30 a.m.
TERO: 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

June 20 - Women Infants and Children Program
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

June 24 - Tax Commission
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Lunch: 11-11:30 a.m.
TERO: 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

June 30 - Closed for MCN Festival

For more information, contact the MCN SRO at: 405-452-1100.

PR seeking applicants for talent competition

Media Release

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation is seeking entertainers for performances on the 'Creek Nation Stage' at the Tulsa State Fair Sept. 25 - Oct. 5, 2014.

Auditions for the Natives Got Talent competition will be held prior to final selections June 14 at the Claude A. Cox Omniplex in Okmulgee. A celebrity panel will rank the performers.

The entertainer or majority of a group must be a member(s) of a federally recognized tribe. For applications or more information contact MCN Department of Public Relations Project Specialist LuAnn Bear at: 918-732-7632.

Applications are due by July 11 at 5 p.m. and can be sent by mail to: MCN Office of Public Relations, PO Box 580, Okmulgee, OK 74447, by email to: luannb@mcn-nsn.gov or by fax to: 918-732-7959. Att: LuAnn on all submission.

Food Distribution reschedule notice

Media Release

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Food Distribution Program tailgate sites have been rescheduled. This will be for the month of June only.

June 17 Coweta 8:30 –10:30a.m.

June 18 Eufaula 9:30 –10:30a.m.

June 19 Bristow 8:30 –10:30a.m.

The Okmulgee store will remain open from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., Monday–Friday. The store is closed the last two working days of the month. For more information you may contact MCN Food Distribution at: 918-549-2401.

Seminar held for MCN employees, spouses

Winning at Work discusses relationship importance

Kyla McKown/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Community and Human Services partnered with MCN Human Resources to offer a free seminar for MCN employees and the public.

The "Winning at Work and at Home" seminar was held May 21-22 at the MCN Mound Building in Okmulgee, Okla.

Stewart Grant, John Brown University Center for Health Relationships Marriage Champion and Church Coordinator taught the seminar, which is part of the CHR curriculum.

This is the fifth year MCN has brought the seminar to the tribe. And according to Grant, the course is successful.

"We take assessments before and after the course; for each and every course," Grant said. "We're able to measure those results and all of the Creek Nation seminars we've had, have projected to say, 'yes, this is extremely helpful to me.' "

The course starts out with a color personality test as an icebreaker and a way to recognize the strengths and weaknesses of different personalities.

The main objective of the course is that the audience will leave with the understanding that relationships are the reason for living.

"That we can see people as our greatest resources," Grant said. "Who cares about buildings if we don't have people to fill them? Home will affect work and work will affect home; there's no separating the two."

Grant said he knows the curriculum isn't foolproof but hopes each audience member is able to see relationships differently after the course.

Attendee and MCN Human Resources Secretary Lucy Tiger said it was an eye-opening experience to see how personalities can differ from home and work.

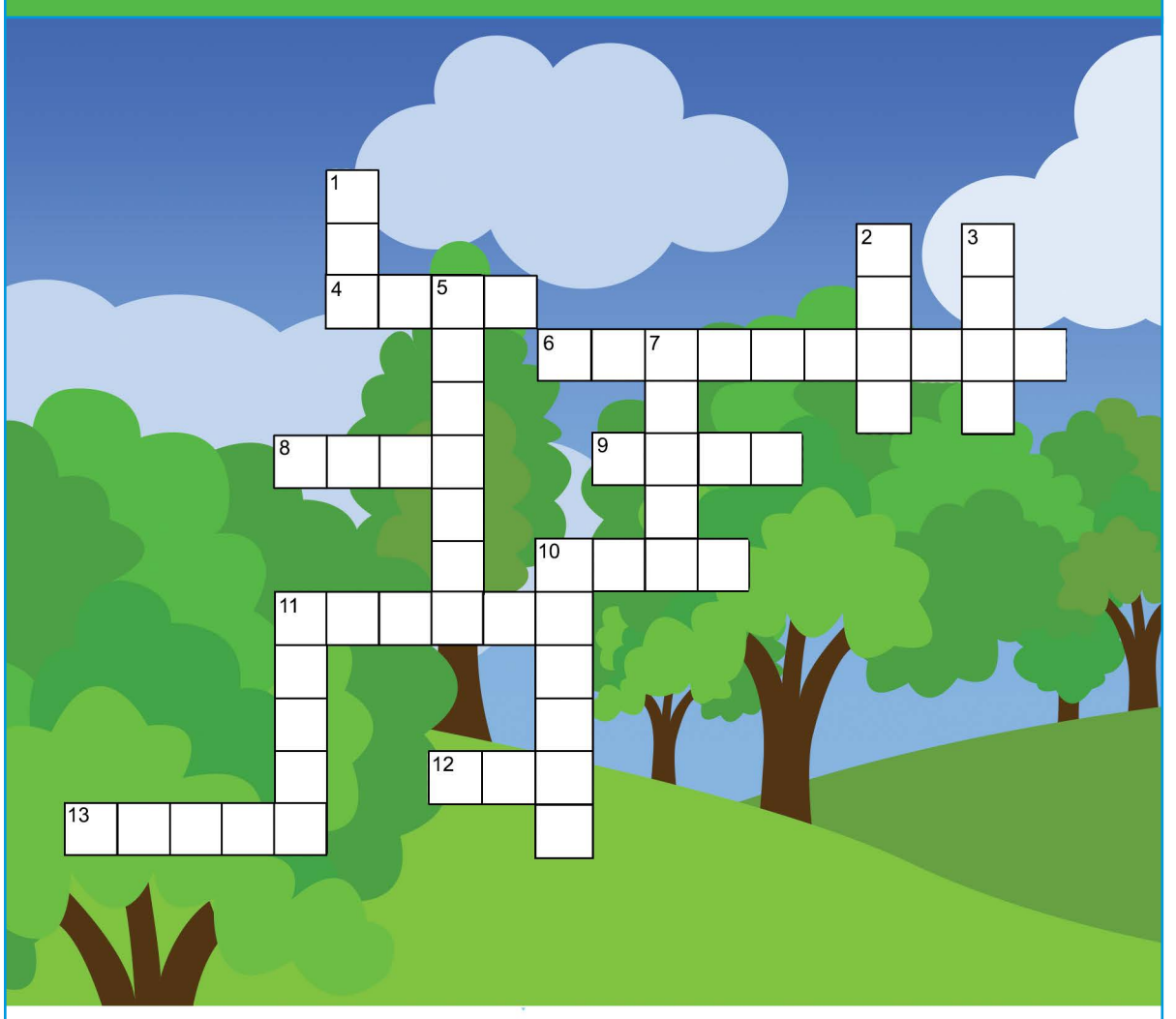
"I wanted to go to one to help me with my professionalism and then also; how it was going to help me interact with people even at home."

CHR partners with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under a Healthy Marriage grant, which accommodates corporations, organizations and communities throughout Central Oklahoma and Arkansas.

CHR travels across the U.S. sharing different relationship seminars at no cost. This includes a premarital seminar, which provides attendees with a course certificate that can be presented for a discounted marriage license in the State of Oklahoma.

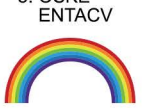
For more information on CHR and its seminars, visit www.liferelationships.com.

A crossword puzzle from the Mvskoke Language Preservation Program



DOWN

1. AKLOHWVHE

5. OSKE ENTACV

11. CVPOFV

2. HOTVLE

7. PVHE

3. AKHVSE

10. AKTOPV


ACROSS

4. FAKKE

9.OSKE

12. HOPERE

6. VTOKYEHATTE

10. ETO-POKKUC

13. VHOLOCE

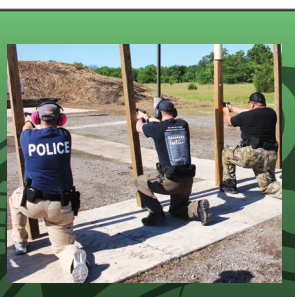
8. HVRESSE

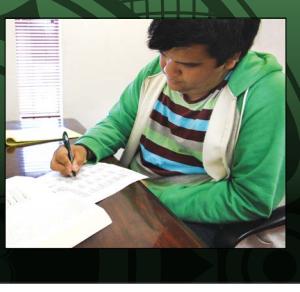
11. PAKPVKUCE


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Lighthorse police officers qualify to carry service weapons — Page 4

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Muscogee Nation News

Official publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and a production of Mvskoke Media

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"Hiyuce"
Little Harvest

Thorpe Games bring nationwide talent to new venue

Event encourages excellence for Native athletes

Chelsie Rich/*Project Specialist*

SHAWNEE, Okla. — Native American athletes representing many different tribes traveled from across the United States to compete in the Jim Thorpe Native American Games June 8-14 in Shawnee, Okla.

"We have athletes from about 60 different tribes this year competing… we have a team from Washington State, a lot from Mississippi, a big group from Florida, from North Dakota, South Dakota, Arizona; so really just all over," said Annetta Abbott, Jim Thorpe Native America Games Executive Director.

The Jim Thorpe Games were started in 2012 for the 100th anniversary of Sac and Fox Nation citizen Jim Thorpe competing in the 1912 Olympic Games in Stockholm, Sweden.

The week-long schedule of events kicked off June 8 with an opening ceremony at the Fire Lake Arena.

"It's kind of an Olympic style competition for Native American athletes," said Abbott.



MNN/Chelsie Rich

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Public Relations Department coordinated volunteers to carry out a giant American flag June 13 during the Jim Thorpe Native American Games All-Star Football Game at Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee, Okla.

The Jim Thorpe Games feature a variety of sports including: softball, basketball, golf, wrestling, cross-country, track and field, wrestling, stickball, beach volleyball, an all-star football game, tennis and martial arts.

"The majority of the kids are ages 10-19 but we have athletes competing this year that are five up to 75," Abbott said.

The games have only been around for the past three years and continue to grow.

"We have a record number of entries this year," Abbott said

This year, the Jim Thorpe Games awarded a $2,500 scholarship to one male and one female athlete participating in the 2014 event.

The primary objective is to inspire Native American athletes to attend college and to grant financial aid to individuals in need.

Tyus Grant is a 17-year-old

Thorpe - 2

TERO holds job fair for River Spirit expansion

Event seeks to build labor force for MCN projects

Chelsie Rich/*Project Specialist*

TULSA, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Employments Rights Office along with Manhattan and Redstone Construction hosted the River Spirit Project Exposition and Recruitment of Creek Labor Force function June 10 at the River Spirit Event Center in Tulsa.

The goal of the event was to gain involvement from citizens and subcontractors as well as identify a labor and subcontractor force to participate in the River Spirit Casino Expansion Project.

Manhattan/Red Stone are a joint venture that partnered together to work on the River Spirit project for MCN.

"Manhattan/Red Stone seeks to assemble a construction team that includes Native American-owned and local businesses, and a labor force comprised of Muscogee (Creek) Nation citizens and local Tulsa residents," said William Mosher, Manhattan/Red Stone Construction Senior Project Manager.

TERO negotiates for job slots with contractors doing business with MCN and refers qualified Native workers to fill those vacancies.

"Our main goals for TERO are to of course put our Creek people to work… as well as to certify Native owned business and to help our Creek businesses grow," said Shalee Cook, MCN TERO Legal Coordinator.

TERO uses a job bank to maintain a list of skilled individuals and their crafts.

In October 2013, TERO hosted the first of many job

TERO - 6

Emergency Management Team supervisor talks tornado safety

Tips in case of a tornado

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Tornado season is upon us here in Oklahoma.

What are the signs for a tornado? What are the differences between a tornado watch and tornado warning?

"In order for a tornado to happen, a lot of things has to come together," Muscogee (Creek) Nation Emergency Management Team Supervisor James Nichols said. "Rain, heat and air movement are some of the things that helps with formations of tornadoes. There are a lot of more that help but those are some examples."

Nichols also spoke about tornado watches and warnings and how to know the difference between them. Local news and weather channels use watches and warnings to help inform citizens in the area about severe weather.



Shutterstock

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Emergency Management Team Supervisor James Nichols gave advice on what to do in case a tornado touches down near your area.

"Tornado watches are issued when there is a potential for a tornado to happen," Nichols said. "They are put out there so the people can be aware that it might happen. A warning is when the radar indicates a tornado on the ground causing damage or someone has visually seen a tornado touchdown."

If a tornado is in the area, a basement or cellar is the best place to go. Nichols suggested several alternatives in the case that there is not immediate access to either of these.

"If a tornado happens to touchdown near where you are and if you are inside, try and get to the lowest floor of the home.

"Also, make it the center of your home or the home that you are in; whether it is in the hallway or closet. Stay away from windows and outside walls. Those would be the worst place to be at," Nichols said.

Nichols suggested that those in mobile homes should attempt to find shelter in a more permanent structure if there is enough notice before a tornado.

"Mobile homes are not a good place to be at," Nichols said. "They are not held down by anything so if a tornado goes through they are more easy to be destroyed."

He also stated that those who find themselves outside during a tornado should attempt to find the lowest point in the ground such as a ditch for shelter. Do not try to outrun a tornado, avoid bridges and never stay in a vehicle.

"Studies have been done that if a tornado is near a bridge, the winds get a lot stronger going through the bridge and that can be more harmful to

Tornado - 4

MvskokeMedia

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NAJA
Native American Journalist Association

Members of the Native American Journalists Association

MCN hosts second annual Bass Classic



Native News Today

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation held the second annual Muscogee (Creek) Bass Classic June 15 at Lake Eufaula, in Eufaula, Okla.

Festival event offers Father's Day recreation

Kyla McKown/*MNN Reporter*

EUFAULA, Okla. — As part of the 40th Annual Muscogee (Creek) Nation Festival, the MCN Tourism and Recreation Department held the second annual Muscogee (Creek) Bass Classic June 15 at Lake Eufaula in Eufaula, Okla.

The idea came about two years ago when MCN Principal Chief George Tiger attended the Bass Masters Classic in Tulsa, Okla., and talked with officials about bringing a tournament to the Nation's lake waters.

Muscogee (Creek) Bass Classic Tournament Director Matt Lahren talked with Tiger about the idea.

"Chief Tiger said, 'We have lakes in the Nation's boundaries; I want a bass classic here.' So that's pretty much how it got started," Lahren said. "Two years later and we have a really cool format now."

Lahren has experience directing bass tournaments throughout Minnesota and said that thus far, this tournament has had the perfect set up.

"It's the best format I've ever participated in," Lahren said. "Every single angler I've talked to is just really pleased with it. Everyone thinks it's great and wants to make it an annual thing to be a part of each year."

This year, there were 48 boats on the Eufaula Cove waters to participate in the tournament.

The tournament was 100 percent payback plus an additional $6,000 added for the big fish contest. First place in the big fish contest took home $3,000, while second place took home $2,000 and third place received $1,000.

Lahren believes this tournament will only continue to grow each year.

He said it is particularly appealing to bass anglers because of the location.

"The Nation is very fortunate that Lake Eufaula is one of the premier lakes for bass tournaments in the entire country," Lahren said. "This is the heart of bass fishing right here. I've heard people say, 'If you want to make a living in fishing tournaments, you better start in Oklahoma.' "

Tiger is also pleased with the turnout of one of the newest additions to the Festival events.

"I think it's a great response to a second try at this tournament," Tiger said. "We're excited with the direction it has taken and hope it'll build up as we look to build the Lake Eufaula area ourselves with some projects on the drawing board for the Fountainhead area. So this is good for us."

Tiger said it is in the infant stages, but the tournament could be on future Bass Masters tournament schedules.

"It's exciting to see various events being added," Tiger said. "I'm sure we'll look at adding one or two new events next year in addition to the Bass Classic."

Children also had the opportunity to fish and join in activities with rods and reels provided through donations.

Luke and Tammy Palmer took first place in the tournament, second place went to Bob Baird and Cheyanne Dodd and Mark Riojas and Zack Birge placed third.

Charles Mulinax and Wyatt Rogers won first place in the big fish competition.

Natives Got Talent showcases local stars



MNN/Jessica McBride

Smilin' Vic and the Soul Monkeys entertain the crowd during the first annual Natives Got Talent competition June 14 at the Claude A. Cox Omniplex in Okmulgee, Okla.

Performers compete for spot at Tulsa State Fair

Jessica McBride/*Editorial Assistant*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation hosted the first ever Natives Got Talent competition June 14 at the Claude A. Cox Omniplex in Okmulgee.

Native Americans from around the area graced the stage with musical performances and variety acts, vying to win a chance at performing on the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Stage at the Tulsa State Fair this fall.

The event featured guest performances by Smilin' Vic and the Soul Monkeys and Brooks Brewer of AM 1240, The Brew radio station.

Brewer along with Victor Gutierrez (Smilin' Vic) and MCN first lady Frances Tiger served as celebrity judges for the competition.

Each act was given a 15 minute time limit and judged based on talent and stage presence.

"Just an overall performance based I think. Something that the crowd would find entertaining and exciting," Brewer said. "I expect some great things today… I expect there is going to be a lot of talent."

Tiger believes that using a competition to search for Native American talent helps unknown entertainers gain recognition.

"I think that there's a lot of people out there that have tremendous talent and a lot of times we don't know about that talent; and so by having this as a competition then we can make it fair for everyone," Tiger said.

The winner of the competition was MCN Employment and Training Youth Coordinator Nancy Mason with her "old school" musical performance.

Other acts were also chosen to fill vacant spots in the Tulsa State Fair line up.

Mason said her competition was fierce.

"The talent that I saw at the Native's Got Talent competition was amazing. I am totally shocked and very honored to be chosen among these entertainers," Mason said.

Mason said she was thrilled to be chosen.

"I am excited to be able to represent the Muscogee Nation during the Tulsa State Fair," Mason said. "This will definitely be an experience to check off the bucket list."

Thorpe

Continued from Page 1

that graduated from Meskwaki High School in Tama, Iowa, and is one of the first scholarship recipients from the Jim Thorpe Native American Games.

"The Jim Thorpe Scholarship has helped me extremely because it's one of the bigger scholarships I received," Grant said.

Grant has traveled to Oklahoma for the past three summers to play basketball in the games.

Grant plans to attend Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, play football and major in physical therapy.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation is one of many supporters of the Jim Thorpe Games.

The MCN Public Relations Department gathered volunteers to carry a giant American flag June 13 onto the field during the all-star football game.

For more information about the Jim Thorpe Native American Games and how to apply for the scholarship visit the website at: www.jimthorpegames.com.

MCN EMT receives award at annual event

Team recognized for relief efforts

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

SHAWNEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Emergency Response Team and MCN Arbor Care Service were recognized June 5, at the seventh annual Inter-Tribal Emergency Management Coalition Summit held at the Grand Casino in Shawnee, Okla.

The team was presented with the Gary Robinson Excellence in Emergency Management Award for their quick and immediate response to the tornadoes that devastated an area near Bethel Acres, Okla., in May 2013.

"It is humbling to be recognized for something that we would do no matter what," MCN EMT Supervisor James Nichols said. "We knew that a lot of people will be needing help. This area is so small and rural that they do not have a lot of resources and the resources that was around here was going to be real slim."

ITEMC Chairman Tim Zintec presented the award to the team.

"This was a difficult task to choose from as we had several teams to look at for what they did last year," Zintec said. "This team went above and beyond to help in relief efforts from when the tornadoes hit near Bethel Acres last year."

This was the inaugural presentation of the Gary Robinson Award. While Nichols is happy for his team to be recognized, he believes MCN EMT would always go above and beyond to help the people that need it.

"This is what our guys train to do," Nichols said. "This is the reason. In case events like this are to happen, we know we have to be ready at anytime. Our guys know how important it is to be ready for anything."

Muscogee (Creek) athlete finishes career at OCU



Native News Today
Muscogee (Creek) athlete Danielle Fox recently graduated from Oklahoma City University where she played softball for the OCU Stars.

Pitcher wins on and off the field

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

OKLAHOMA CITY — Recently graduated, former Oklahoma City University Stars pitcher and outfielder Danielle Fox has been playing softball since she was eight-years-old.

Fox, who is Muscogee (Creek), Euchee and Cheyenne-Arapaho, started with practicing with her father.

"My dad played softball in the independent tournaments around here and I tagged along with him and that is where my interest came from," Fox said. "Seeing him play and wanting to learn is what kept me inspired to play softball and wanting to get better and better is what kept me playing."

Fox learned how to hit from her father working with her but her real love was pitching.

"Watching pitchers growing up, I knew I wanted to pitch," Fox said. "Seeing the different type of pitches that all the pitchers threw, I wanted to learn how to do that. My dad and I would go out every single day and I would work on my pitching."

Fox went to high school in Yukon, Okla., and went on to play at Washburn University, which is a National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II school.

"The program at Washburn did not fit me," Fox said. "I wanted to get closer to home and I knew a couple of the coaches here at OCU."

Fox knew of the program at OCU and asked the coaches if they were interested in having her play for them. The coaches talked to a few of her teammates from high school to see what kind of person she was and if she would be a fit for the team.

"After those talks with some of my old teammates and some of the girls that played with me that are on this team, everything else fell into place," Fox said.

Fox made the transfer from Washburn University and enrolled at OCU. Her head coach Phil McSpadden spoke about Fox and her time at OCU.

"I call Danielle my surprise gift," McSpadden said. "When she came back home from Washburn she could play both the outfield and be a pitcher for us. So when we got her, she was a surprise that she wanted to play for us and it was a gift for our team."

McSpadden saw a player that wanted to play and get better everyday, whether it was in the season or in the off-season. He saw how Fox wanted to continue improving.

"Perseverance is the word I can describe for Danielle," McSpadden said. "She put in the extra hours. She listened to all of her coaches. She improved every single year but did not rest on that at all."

Fox ended her career at OCU May 28 and talked about experiences that have helped her off the field with life lessons, morals and everyday trials.

"It has been crazy, wonderful for my time here at OCU," Fox said. "It has been an experience not only for on the field but off the field. All the coaches worked with you both physically and mentally. I feel the mentally went with my school work and it helped me to take care of that too."

Fox was also a National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Scholar Athlete, all-NAIA Southwest Region first team, College Sports Information Directors of America All-American 2nd Team, All National Tournament Team and National Fast Pitch Coaches Association 2nd Team All-American.

She graduated with a bachelor's degree in justice studies and a 3.67 GPA.

"I loved my time here at OCU," Fox said. "I am blessed to be where I am now. I am looking at a few grad schools but I still have not made my decision. Softball will always be in my life though, always."

McSpadden had one more thing to say about Fox.

"Danielle is a great person both on and off the field," McSpadden said. "The team and I will miss her and the school will miss her, both academically and athletically."

Words of the wise: Lou Crofut

Elder strives to help others

Kyla McKown/*MNN Reporter*



MNN/Kyla McKown
Muscogee (Creek) citizen Lou Crofut grew up learning Mvskoke traditions from her grandmother that she still carries with her today.

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Lou Crofut could be a self-proclaimed gadabout.

Crofut, who grew up south of Henryetta, Okla., spent 31 years in Okmulgee raising her son and daughter and a number of years traveling throughout the U.S.

"I've thoroughly enjoyed my life," Crofut said. "If I passed five minutes from now, I told my children to be happy because I had a good life. Don't mourn because I've had a good life and hopefully better life in heaven."

She spent 15 years as a financial secretary for a union, which allowed her to travel, meet new people and even share recipes.

"I've never met a stranger and I talk to everybody and that is what I'm into right now," Crofut said.

"I've never met a stranger and I talk to everybody and that is what I'm into right now."

- Muscogee (Creek) citizen Lou Crofut

For the past two years, she has lived in the MCN Elderly Housing community. That is where she has been able to continue her gardening, greet the new tenants, sing Mvskoke hymns and stay busy.

"I just keep busy. I hardly have a day off," Crofut said.

She attends church on Sunday mornings and Sunday evenings, she enjoys playing games with a group of women at the MCN Elderly Nutrition Center.

Fridays are always booked because that is the day spent with her sister.

"Every Friday, I hangout with my older sister," Crofut said. "That's our day. She is 87."

While Sundays and Fridays are practically booked, Crofut still manages to make a trip to Okemah, Okla., with a group of friends every Monday evening for their bowling league.

Although her schedule seems to always be booked, Crofut said she always makes time to take church members or Muscogee (Creek) citizens to the grocery store or anywhere they might need to go.

Crofut's desire to help others most likely stems from what she said, is the most important lesson in life.

"My grandmother and mother told me to treat and love everyone like you want to be loved and treated," Crofut said. "And that's the main thing. It's still within me and that's the way I always want to treat everyone, because I want to be treated nice."

Aside from helping other elders, Crofut has always been involved with community service and volunteer work.

After going along with a friend to dialysis last year, she said she realized how cold the patients were. That is when she decided to lend a hand.

"Our elderly group wanted to make lap quilts for some organization as charity," Crofut said. "I thought that was the perfect idea. They said there were 58 of them there. So my sister, another lady and myself made 58 quilts. It took us about three months."

Crofut believes her outlook on life was shaped through her grandmother and mother's teachings, as well as the church.

"I live by the motto, 'learn from the past, live for today and hope for tomorrow,' " Crofut said. "I tell my kids, that's the three things to remember. That's my life and I've had a great life."



Lighthorse police officers qualify to carry service weapons



MNN/Gary Fife
Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthorse Police officers shoot June 13 at the Lighthorse range in Okmulgee to qualify to carry their service weapons.

Tribal police officers demonstrate marksmanship

Gary Fife/*Radio Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A volley of gunshots crackle and the bullets fly towards their targets.

Luckily, for the citizens of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, it is the MCN Lighthorse Police Department doing the shooting June 13 at the Lighthorse range in northern Okmulgee.

Twice a year, Lighthorse officers demonstrate proficiency with their on-duty firearms as required by the State of Oklahoma Council on Law Enforcement Education and Training.

For this session, 39 Lighthorse officers shot to qualify and all were successful.

Lighthorse officers carry a .40-caliber, Glock 22 pistol as their sidearm. They may also carry shotguns and the AR-15 rifle.

To qualify, the MCN Lighthorse Department requires officers to be 80 percent accurate on their shooting test.

According to Deputy Chief Jerry Whitman, state law enforcement officers are required to be 72 percent accurate.

Deputy Chief, Jerry Whitman said he wants to make sure Lighthorse officers can handle pressure situations that may require the use of firearms. The procedures used on the firing range simulate these scenarios and require split-second timing.

"Whenever an officer uses their weapon, they're under stress out there," Whitman said. "They're timed and the firearms instructors will give them a certain time to pull their weapon to get so many rounds down range within so many seconds."

The human torso silhouette targets have concentric rings from the center outward, marking vital spots on the body. Hits inside those rings are worth a higher number of points. Misses score against the shooter.

"One has a circle on the head. We have to do two head shots. They've all got a bulls-eye right in the middle within the rings and anything outside that is a disqualification. So, we have to get in the center-of-mass and two in the head."

In a real life situation, Whitman explained, those are the areas an officer must hit to stop the threat.

According to Whitman, Lighthorse has faced some situations where a pistol was drawn, but has not had to follow through.

"Yes, plenty of times we've had to use them but nobody has had to shoot anybody or has had to take a shot at anything," Whitman said.

Patrolman Jason Bleeker served as an instructor for the qualification test.

He described the essentials to become a good marksman with a pistol.

"Sight picture, stance, grip, basic stuff to help keep their marks," Bleeker said. "The front sight and the rear sight need to be equal distance and height from each other. Stance, make sure you're not off balance; have a good balance when you stand. Grip, to help you maintain the recoil of the weapon."

Bleeker said that scores are kept by the placement of shots within key areas.

"Well, a 25 round course and its four points per round inside the score ring on the target. We look for combat accuracy; we don't look for pinpoint accuracy… Really, the tighter the pattern, it doesn't really matter as long as it's inside the score ring."

Both Whitman and Bleeker were confident that the marksmanship displayed would serve them well if and when the time came for them to fire on someone with the intent to end a threat.

They were both happy that they have not been forced to do that.

A guide to the MCN: Fountainhead Creek Golf Course

Course open to all ages

Jessica McBride/*Editorial Assistant*



MNN/Jessica McBride
The Fountainhead Creek Golf Course offers various amenities for different age ranges and golfing abilities.

CHECOTAH, Okla.— Nestled on wooded, lakefront property located on Lake Eufaula, Fountainhead Creek Golf Course in Checotah offers a wide variety of services for the amateur and scratch golfer.

The 18 hole, par 72 course offers a putting green, chipping green, driving range, cart and club rentals, golf shop with major brands and a grill with snacks and drinks for a full day of fun.

FCGC is open seven days a week from 7 a.m. to dark, year round.

"Our greens are superb. Our golf course is in great shape," FCGC Manager Mike Wood said. "We do have rolling hills and things of that nature and you get a view of the lake."

Wood, who is Seminole and Citizen Potawatomi, has been in the golf business for 19 years. He has worked as the FCGC manager for nine months.

"We get a lot of comments from people that come here and play and they talk about how good the golf course is," Wood said. "Those are things that are always good to hear."

Tee times can be booked online through the course's website: www.fountainheadgolf.com. Prices vary from $30 per player Monday-Thursday and $35 per player Friday-Sunday. The price includes a green fee and half a cart rental. Annual memberships are also available.

Fountainhead Creek Golf Course is the home for the 2014 Mvskoke Festival Golf Tournament. Other tournaments are offered throughout the year.

According to Wood, FCGC organized 16 golf tournaments last year and has scheduled 36 this year.

Wood believes that golf is a lifelong sport. He said many athletes turn to playing golf as they get older.

"If they're not already playing they end up playing golf," Wood said.

In August, the golf course will be hosting a clinic for the children at the Eufaula Dorm in Eufaula, Okla.

Wood said the course is for the young and old alike.

"We want all ages because the thing that you always learn in the golf business; those young ones, that's your next membership or that's who's going to play when they get older. So you always want to encourage youth to play," Wood said.

Wood is thankful to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation for their support.

"If it wasn't for them, this golf course would've probably went away or it would be in terrible shape," Wood said.

For more information about Fountainhead Creek Golf Course call: 918-689-3209 or visit: www.fountainheadgolf.com.

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Lighthorse officers recognized at annual banquet



MNN/Darren DeLaune

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Two police officers and one communication officer with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthorse Police Department were presented awards at the Annual Elks Lodge Banquet for Local Law Enforcement May 15 in Okmulgee.

(L to R) Patrol Captain Dennis Northcross won Administration Officer of the Year, Angela Jones was awarded Dispatcher of the Year and Chad Morris won Patrol Officer of the Year.

TORNADO

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the people that have tried to take cover there," Nichols said.

Nichols offers these tips to prepare for in case of severe weather.

"Know if there is a chance of severe weather in your area there is a chance of tornadoes. Buying a weather radio is a great idea," Nichols said. "When severe weather happens that will notify you and warn you to get prepared. A lot of smartphones have the technology to download notifications of bad weather. Take advantage of the technology and use it."

Rock Creek – Bingo - Table Games - Electronic Games

21st ANNIVERSARY 777

SATURDAY AUGUST 2ND

This facility is regulated by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Office of Public Gaming

CASINO

NOON - 8:00PM

Free T-shirt for every Diamond Club member! (while supplies last)

Electronic Ticket Drawing
Diamond Club members will earn one (1) electronic drawing ticket with every $100 of coin in from July 1st – August 2nd. On August 2nd, one (1) electronic ticket drawing every ½ hour from Noon to 8:00 PM at the main casino or travel plaza. Each winner will receive $777. At 8:00 PM, we will have one (1) electronic ticket drawing for $7,777.

Hot Seat prize drawings every 15 minutes for a $77 Free Play from NOON - 8:00PM.

$7 Match Play for standard Diamond Club members.
$7 Free Play for 1st Class Diamond Club members.
$27 Free Play for VIP Diamond Club members.
$77 Free Play for Elite Diamond Club members.

BINGO

Anniversary reservations begin at NOON on June 1st. $25 reserves a seat and machine. $5000.00 Must Go Anniversary Games to qualify for the 21st Anniversary session on August 2nd begin.

How to Qualify:
Win any $5000.00 must go game
(Winner receives 1 ticket and a $75 gift certificate)
Each nightly session will have 5 drawings where each winner will receive 1 ticket.
Qualifiers can purchase additional tickets night of for $5.00 each.

Anniversary Pricing:
10 Regulars paying $1000.00
Paper $19.00
Electronic $49.00/$99.00/$149.00
Pic 8 - Must Go $500.00
Bonanza Must Go $500.00
$5000.00 Must Go-Players must qualify to be eligible
Late Minis

July 9th - August 2nd
Players who make a suited blackjack of spades on a Blackjack table, full house or better on UTH, straight or better on 3-Card Poker will earn an entry into our drawings.

Cash poker players will earn an entry by showing down a full house or better.
Poker Tournament winners will also receive drawing entries.

We will draw 3 winners from our drawing hopper at 8:00PM, 9:00PM and 10:00PM on Saturday July 12th, 19th, and 26th.



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MCN officials discuss minimum wage at the Nation

Pay scale impacts quality of life for citizens, communities

Sterling Cosper/*MNN Editor*



Shutterstock-MNN/Amanda Rutland

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Minimum wage has been a hot topic in the news lately.

Recently, the Seattle City Council voted to increase the municipal minimum wage to $15 per hour.

In Oklahoma, officials have taken a different stance.

Gov. Mary Fallin signed legislation in April prohibiting communities in Oklahoma from establishing a minimum wage different than the state.

Although Muscogee (Creek) Nation jurisdiction lies within Oklahoma, as a federally recognized tribe, MCN is legally only subject to the federal minimum wage.

"We can set our own as long as it's not less than," said MCN Human Resources Department Manager Dean Hughes.

During a public engagement June 9, Oklahoma U.S. Senate candidate T.W. Shannon spoke out against the existence of a mandatory federal minimum.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor website, the current federal minimum wage is $7.25 per hour and employees who are subject to both state and federal minimum wage laws are entitled to the higher of the two rates.

The minimum wage for MCN employees is $10.15 per hour.

This rate, enacted by MCN National Council Amendment 09-053, went into effect in October 2010 and excludes those employed by the Gaming Operations Authority Board and all casinos under the management of GOAB, Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise and the Tribal Trade and Commerce Authority.

"A lot of the workers didn't qualify to make minimum wage because they were making tips that got them up into the $60-90,000 a year range.

"That's with the casino employees. As far as MNBE, I'm not sure. They are an independent business agency of the tribe; whereas this minimum wage pertained to tribal employees only," said MCN National Council Rep. Robert Hufft.

Hufft, who is chair of the Council Business Finance and Justice Committee, said that the wage pertains to those employed with all three branches of the MCN government.

Hufft explained the reason behind the 2009 increase.

"We were trying to meet the needs of some people," Hufft said. "There's always the factor of how we can afford to raise the minimum wage but we had to at that time because we were way below the poverty levels."

MCN Tribal Administrator Jerry Wilson believes that the minimum wage policy impacts both tribal citizens and the Nation as a whole.

"Anytime you raise the wealth of a people, you raise the wealth of a Nation," Wilson said.

Employees of major fast food chains have been on strike recently, asking for an increase in wages.

Hufft gave his opinion of these companies' approach to workforce compensation.

"You look at McDonald's, a huge corporation and they underpay their employees I think…Yeah, the owners started the company so they should make money, but you have to think about who's on the front line," Hufft said.

Wilson said that a fair minimum wage goes beyond the ability to afford necessities.

"It doesn't just provide for their household but helps them advance their skillset; like maybe taking a night class to advance their life long learning goals," Wilson said.

He also commented on how this advancement can impact the MCN as a whole.

"All of this plays into building a people of self-determination rather than a people that's relying on government services," Wilson said. "As we march toward self-determination, I think we need all the skillsets we can get."

Hufft outlined what factors determine the minimum wage rate and when it is adjusted.

"The first thing we look at is the budget at this point in time and what revenues we have coming into the Nation," Hufft said.

Wilson pointed to external factors.

"You look at the percentage of COLA, cost of living increases first," Wilson said. "If cost of living has gone up three percent, then maybe we ought to parallel that."

Hufft believes that an objective assessment of wages at the tribe would be beneficial when considering a pay increase.

"My assessment is that you should take someone from the outside and have them evaluate every job we have at the Nation and have them do a salary scale," Hufft said.

Hufft shared his goal for tribal employee wages.

"I'd like to get to the point as a tribe where when somebody does a good job and needs a raise, we don't have to say, 'we don't have the money; you'll have to wait until next year,' " Hufft said.

The current minimum wage in Oklahoma is $7.25 and Hughes is pleased with the competitive rate the MCN offers.

"Obviously, this minimum wage level gives us an advantage over a lot of employers in the area; so we have a lot of applicants for positions," Hughes said. "It is a positive thing for Muscogee (Creek) Nation."

MCN Department of Housing purchases foreclosed home

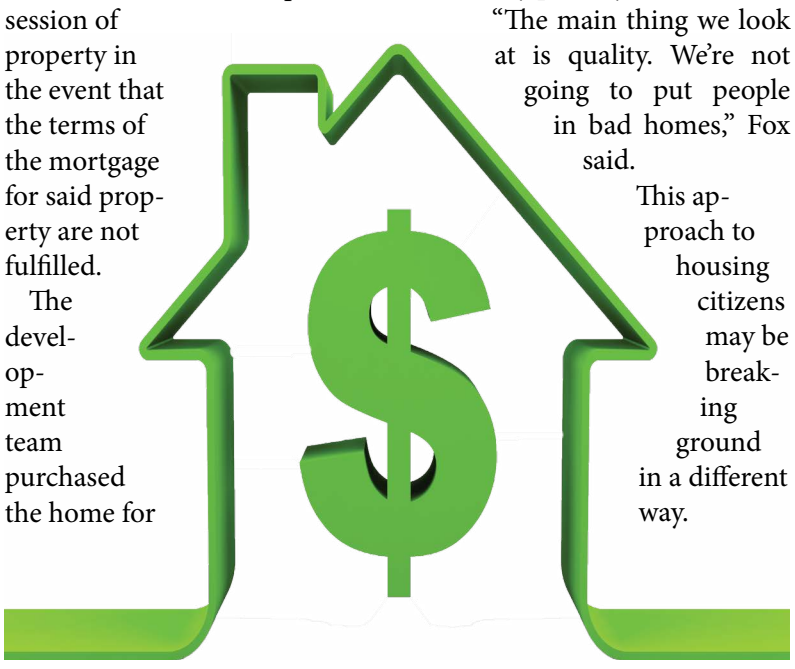
Program breaks ground with new housing endeavor

Jessica McBride/*Editorial Assistant*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Housing development subsidiary purchased a foreclosed property in Sapulpa, Okla., from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

"It came up as an idea through our development department," MCN Secretary of Housing Brad Fox said.

A foreclosure is the repossession of property in the event that the terms of the mortgage for said property are not fulfilled.



The development team purchased the home for $80,180 with grant funds. The current appraised value for the home is $87,500 as is.

They estimated that the property would need approximately $6,700 worth of repairs completed prior to a citizen moving into the home. Repairs are estimated to take 30 days to complete and will be done by the Housing Department.

After the repairs are completed, Housing estimates the appraised value of the home will be between $100,000-$105,000.

Housing hopes to save more money in the future by participating in a program offered by HUD that allows non-profit organizations and government entities to purchase a HUD foreclosed property for up to a 30 percent discount during a seven day bidding period.

"It's not on every HUD foreclosure, but on certain ones… they open it up for seven days in a lottery phase," Housing Department Development Specialist Stacey Settlemyre said. "Either governments or non-profit agencies are the only ones allowed to bid at that time."

Fox said that purchasing and renovating foreclosures is an efficient and cost effective way to provide housing for citizens.

"The average cost for new construction for us is probably around $125,000," Fox said. "We look at it as a faster process compared to building."

Although the department is looking for ways to save money on housing, a good deal is not the only priority.

"The main thing we look at is quality. We're not going to put people in bad homes," Fox said.

This approach to housing citizens may be breaking ground in a different way.

"We think that, we don't know definitely for sure; but we feel like we're probably the first Native American tribal government that has actually got involved with working with the HUD foreclosure system," Fox said.

Housing is thankful for the support of MCN Principal Chief George Tiger in this endeavor.

"I think that's kind of a plus and kind of shows Principal Chief Tiger's vision of getting out there and being a front runner in the real estate market. I think that was good of him to give us this opportunity to work towards that."

Housing will continue to search for HUD foreclosures and other agency foreclosures within the jurisdiction in the future.

To contact the MCN Housing Department, call: 918-549-2500.

TERO

Continued from Page 1

forums for the River Spirit expansion.

Since then, there has been in an increase in the number of citizens that have been hired to work on the project.

"Currently we have probably about 400 in the job bank, probably about 60-80 have been placed… out of the job bank list we probably have over half that are Creek," Cook said.

Other employment opportunities will be available through the construction of the new Okemah Muscogee Indian Health Center.

Sam England, RSC Human Resources Department Director, spoke about employment opportunities after the project is complete.

"We're looking at close to or right around 1000 jobs that are going to be created. That's everything from hotel operations, casino operations; to food and beverage; to facilities; to house keeping. It goes on and on… there is a huge assortment of opportunities," England said.

Those who would like to be certified as an Indian Preference employer should contact TERO at: 918-549-2964 to request an application or go online to: www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov/Pages/Tero/pdf/appchecklistfinal.pdf.

Also a Job Bank application card can be obtained with the TERO in Okmulgee or by going to the website at: www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov/Pages/Tero/pdf/terojobbankappFill2013.pdf.

To be eligible to apply for the job bank you must provide proof of citizenship with a federally recognized tribe and preference is given to Muscogee (Creek) citizens.



Summer Youth Employment continues to foster growth



MNN/Sterling Cosper
The 2014 Mvskoke Media Summer Youth employees. (L to R): Marrissa Phillips, Printing Technician; Elijah Cusher, Printing Technician; Shane Holuby, Multimedia Specialist and Johnni Morgan, Printing Technician.

Program provides experience during seasonal break

Chelsie Rich/*Project Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Employment and Training Department welcomed hundreds of young participants for the 2014 Summer Youth Employment Program.

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Perry Anderson started the Summer Youth Employment Program in 1977 with about 25 participants. Today, the program expects to have between 600-700 participants each summer.

The program lasts eight weeks and allows youth to work and gain experience during their summer break.

"The main goals are really to focus on employment skills for the young people," said Nancy Mason, Department of Employment and Training Youth Coordinator.

All participants must locate their own worksites and attend a mandatory orientation.

The youth are encouraged to seek a position that pertains to their career interest.

Former summer youth and current MCN College Work Experience Program participant Evan Tansey enjoys working for the MCN Mvskoke Media department.

"I like this job," Tansey said. "It's the highway between theatre and English."

Tansey, who is a theater major at Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee, Okla., believes that working in his prospective career field will help him in the future.

In the past few years, the program has incorporated life skills as additional training to help the participants with their jobs or focus on their careers.

This year, the program is offering courses for participants seeking their GED.

Participants, ages 16-17, will attend a youth summit and a college connection day will be held for the older participants, ages 18-21.

"Overall our goals are to provide opportunities to young people to empower them with the information and knowledge they need to provide decisions and choices…to provide support to them," Mason said.

To be eligible for the program, a participant must be between the ages of 16-21 and reside within the MCN boundaries.

The program is open to all youth who are a member of a federally recognized tribe.

For more information about the Summer Youth Program, contact the MCN Department of Employment and Training at: 918-732-7777.

MCN JOM to fund Advance Placement testing



MNN/Shane Holuby
The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Johnson O'Malley Program offers financial assistance for Advanced Placement exams.

More assistance available for students

Amanda Rutland/*Media Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Johnson O'Malley Program is now offering funding for Advanced Placement exams.

In October 2013, the MCN National Council passed NCA 13-252 to create the Advanced Placement Testing Incentive and NCA 13-255, which set aside $50,000 to fund the APTI program.

JOM Field Specialist Kayla Chupco headed up the AP Testing program.

"Our original goal was 35 applications, but we ended up with 74," Chupco said.

According to Chupco, each AP exam costs approximately $89. The program will cover up to five exams per year for each student. Only Muscogee (Creek) citizens may participate because this program is funded with tribal money instead of federal grants.

Recently, JOM met with the College Board Southwest Regional Senior Director Barbary Keith to discuss plans for the coming year. The College Board produces the SAT, PSAT, CLEP and AP exams.

"She (Barbary Keith) is excited about it because she worked with us really closely when she found out that we were going to be offering this to our citizens," JOM Manager Regina Keith said. "We are the first, one and only tribe that is offering this to our citizens at this point."

Chupco believes this program is significant because it gives students the opportunity to earn college credits while in high school and gives them a head start on higher education.

"It also reduces student debt and also some of our JOM programs had already been funding AP exams; and that frees up JOM funds for their students as a whole when we can serve this purpose," Chupco said.

JOM also offers an academic incentive to 16 students per year, which is a $500 college scholarship. This grant is only available to Muscogee (Creek) high school seniors.

In order to be considered for the incentive, students must apply and write an essay. People outside the JOM department score the essays, and the students with the top 16 scores receive the grant.

JOM serves 46 schools within the MCN jurisdiction. Oversight of the schools is split between Chupco and Field Specialist Billy Proctor. Each school renews its contract with JOM in May for the following school year.

"It has been the same schools because we haven't been able to open any contracts up for new schools because a freeze that took place in 1995," Keith said. "In our jurisdiction, we have 67 schools but at this time we are only able to serve 46."

According to Keith, the time is close for the Bureau of Indian Education to allow a recount of schools and students within the MCN boundaries.

For more information about any of the JOM programs, contact Kayla Chupco at: 918-732-7840 or Billy Proctor at: 918-732-7842.

Council launches interactive agendas



MNN/Amanda Rutland
The Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council recently launched interactive agendas available for download on the Council website: www.mcnnc.com.

Accessibility furthered through Council website

Kyla McKown/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council recently began offering interactive agendas through the Council website: www.mcnnc.com, which allows citizens to see upcoming legislation.

Citizens now have the opportunity to download committee, planning, emergency, quarterly and regular session agendas prior to the meetings.

Agendas can be viewed, as well as the legislation behind particular bills. However, the regular session agendas do not feature the full language for each bill. The full legislation can be accessed by:

— Going to www.mcnnc.com.

— Click the 'Download Agenda' link on the left-hand side of the screen.

— Click on the specific session agenda.

— Once the agenda has opened, click the 'Download' icon in the upper right-hand corner of the screen.

— The agenda will open through a separate window, which shows each of the bills on the left-hand side of the screen.

— The full legislation will be shown by clicking on a specific bill.

MCN National Council Second Speaker Robert Hufft said once the meetings are completed, the bill should be posted within 24 hours whether it passes or not.

However, Hufft said these results are not final because the principal chief has 10 days to sign off on any legislation passed during Council sessions.

"Chief still has to sign off on it but it shows what happened in the Council," Hufft said. "So it gives constituents an idea of what is going on, on the committee level and also; it's a chance for citizens to take a look at legislation and be able to read it."

The interactive agendas were an idea thought up among the Council representatives after hearing from a number of constituents who were unaware of upcoming legislation.

"A lot of times we get people who say, 'hey, wish I'd known that was going to be on the agenda. I would've been there or asked questions,' " Hufft said.

Hufft said this is the perfect opportunity for citizens to be familiar with the legislation and directly ask any questions to their district representative or the sponsor of a bill.

Agendas should be expected to be available for download a day or two before the meeting.

If a citizen has limited Internet access, they are still encouraged to call the MCN National Council Office with any questions or concerns.

"Just come up to the Mound building or call down to the office and they can read the agenda over the phone," Hufft said. "We're always open to making sure citizens know what is going on in a timely matter."

Within the next 30 days, the website should have a link, which allows citizens access to ask questions regarding a bill to the sponsor via email.

Hufft also said that within the next 60 days, citizens should have access to audio of the committee meetings through the website, which should be posted within 24 hours.

For more information regarding the interactive agendas or questions for the MCN National Council, contact the office at: 918-758-1410.



National Council website
Interactive agendas can be accessed on the Council website by clicking on the 'Download Agenda' link on the left-hand side of the home page, which will lead to this page.

MCN Community and Tribal Events

CMCA annual gathering set for Aug. 2

Media Release

ANAHEIM, Calif. — The California Muscogee (Creek) Association invites citizens and friends to the annual CMCA gathering Aug. 2 from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Native American United Methodist Church, 800 S. Lemon, Anaheim, CA.

We hope to have visitors from Okmulgee, Okla., as many of our California citizens wish to meet with tribal committees.

As in previous years, we will meet in the fellowship hall. There is a fenced grassy area for children to play.

Several classrooms will be utilized for the various departments from Okmulgee.

Please bring plenty of food and drinks for the potluck meal. Coffee will be furnished.

The Native American church is very near Disneyland and in the very center of Orange County.

For the meeting, citizens come from all over California and even adjacent states. Many friendships are renewed.

For more information contact George Windes, CMCA President at: 714-970-6468 or georgewindes@gmail.com.

Neighborhood meeting set for July 5

RYAL, Okla. — The Salem-Ryal Fire Department annual neighborhood meeting is set for 2 p.m., July 5 at the Salem-Ryal Fire Department, Rt. 2 Box 385, Henryetta, OK, 74437.

Two seats on the board are up for election.

McCombs reunion set for July 5

EUFAULA, Okla. — The annual family reunion for descendents of Rev. William McCombs is set for July 5 at the Eufaula Indian Community Center, 121 W. High St., Eufaula, OK 74432 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Please bring a pot-luck dish to share at the noon luncheon.

For more information contact Bud McCombs at: 918-689-7001.

Mvskoke language VBS set for July 7-10

DUSTIN, Okla. — The Mvskoke Language Preservation Program has set a Mvskoke language immersion vacation bible school for kindergartners-adults July 7-10 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. daily at Faith Baptist Church, 36 Seamon St., Dustin, OK.

For more information contact the language program at: 918-732-7724.

Hartley J. Cosper *Editor*

TCIC Elections set for Sept. 18

TULSA, Okla. — The Tulsa Creek Indian Community has set an election for the chairperson, secretary, treasurer and sergeant-at-arms board positions for Sept. 18 from 6-8 p.m.

The deadline for letters of intent and $20 payment for background checks is July 23 by 5 p.m.

For more information contact Roman Powell at: 918-695-2781

CORRECTIONS

In the June 1 graduate edition of the 'Muscogee Nation News' the profile for Alan Harjo omitted his parents Travis and Monique Hawkins and church, Hickory Ground #2 Baptist Church.

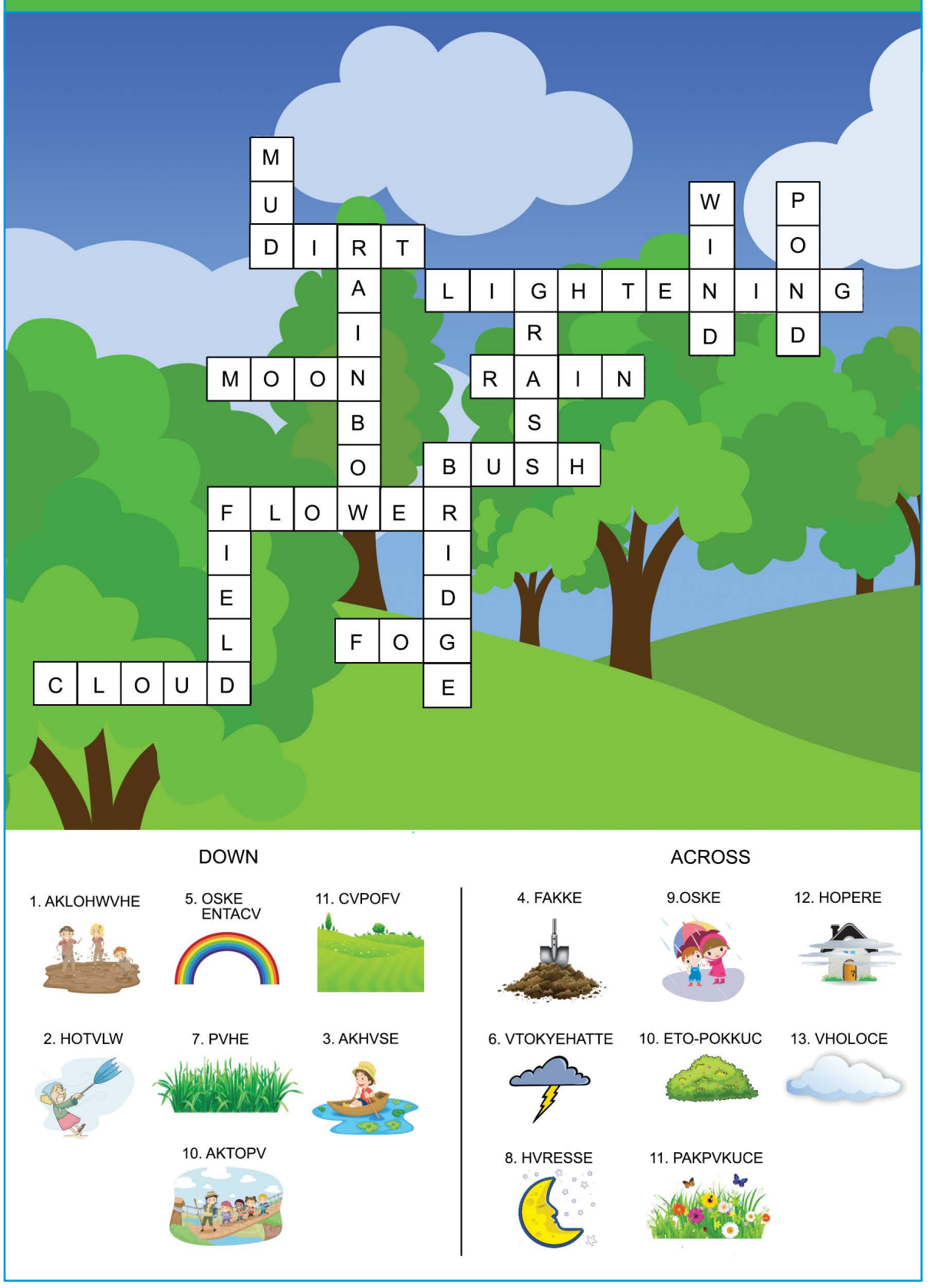
The profile for Cortland Chiles omitted his grandmother Alice Finley Vincent.

The MNN regrets these errors.

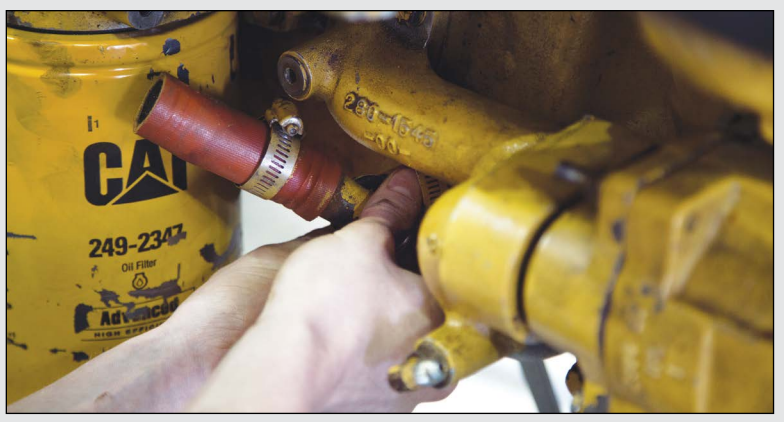
SSN requested for MNN subscriptions

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The 'Muscogee Nation News' has been given access to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Citizenship Office database to expedite subscription requests. Subscriptions are free for enrolled citizens and new additions who do not know their Dawes Roll number will be asked to provide the last four digits of their Social Security Number.

Key for the June 15 Mvskoke Language Preservation Program crossword



MCN grants scholarships for CNG education



MNN/Amanda Rutland
Students identify engine parts during final exams April 23 at the Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology campus in Okmulgee, Okla.

Tribe invests for future alternative energy workforce

Amanda Rutland/*Media Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — In recent years, there has been a public push for alternative energy sources. According to the Oklahoma Public Media Exchange website, the oil, natural gas and wind power industries provide approximately 25 percent of jobs in Oklahoma.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Work Experience Program is awarding scholarships for citizens to enter the Natural Gas Compression Program at Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology.

The first scholarships were dispersed to two students for the 2014 spring semester. MCN Department of Employment and Training Career Specialist Kim Martel said the intended outcome is to educate citizens in order to have a trained workforce for the Nation.

"We are trying to implement the natural gas program for the tribe. We are trying to get citizens educated in that program; so, they can come back and be able to facilitate the program; trying to move to economic development," Martel said.

The scholarships award students $1300 - 1900 per semester for up to six semesters. It assists with purchases for the books and tools needed for the natural gas compression classes and grants students $300 per month while enrolled in program.

After graduation, Employment and Training places the students in a work experience program to receive on-the-job training.

Student Jonah W. Hulbutta believes it is a good opportunity.

"I wish more tribal members young and older would consider this opportunity," Hulbutta said. "I chose this program because I don't have to go to school four years or more before I get to actually get out there and do it."

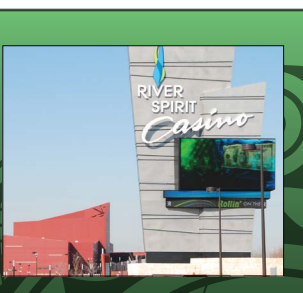
To apply, submit a basic classroom training application to the MCN Department of Employment and Training. The department can be reached at: 918-732-7779. Application submission is open three times per year before each semester.

The OPMX website can be viewed at: http://stateimpact.npr.org/oklahoma/tag/energy-industry.



Inside the MNN:

Lighthorse stations officers at River Spirit Casino Page 6



40th Annual Muscogee (Creek) Nation Festival coverage Pages 11-16

Muscogee Nation News

Official publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and a production of Mvskoke Media

Nation celebrates 40th MCN Festival

July 15, 2014
Vol. 44, Issue 14
"Hiyuce"
Little Harvest

Citizens, attendees enjoy food and fun in Okmulgee

Jessica McBride/*Editorial Assistant*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The sounds of shellshakers filled the air June 26 as the 40th Annual Muscogee (Creek) Nation Festival kicked off with stompdance at sunset on the Claude A. Cox Omniplex in Okmulgee.

Festival events held prior to the main weekend included: the Slow Pitch Softball and Adult 3-on-3 Basketball Tournaments June 20-22, Muscogee (Creek) Bass Classic June 15 and MCN Scholarship Pageant June 7.

On June 27, the MCN Council House bell tolled for the opening of the Council House Art and Food Market held in downtown Okmulgee.

This year, the Art and Food Market featured both Native and local artists.

"Okmulgee is a place of many people, Native and non-Native and we have a lot of people that are talented with arts and also talented with food," MCN Cultural Center and Archives Interim Director Justin Giles said.



MNN/Sterling Cosper

The Cornstalk Shoot was held June 28 as part of the 40th Annual Muscogee (Creek) Nation Festival June 26-29 in Okmulgee.

Mayor of Okmulgee Steven Baldridge said that MCN and the Okmulgee community would continue to work together in a cooperative manner.

"It's an exciting time in the City of Okmulgee and we are a united community," Baldridge said. "We're going to continue to work in that avenue as we go forward."

This year, the City of Okmulgee donated $15,000 to the MCN Festival.

The Junior Olympics benefitted from the cloudy day; and featured tug-of-war, a softball throw and track and field competitions. Children from around Oklahoma and even Dallas competed in the athletic events.

Jr. Miss MCN River Watson said that one of her favorite events was the Junior Olympics.

"Just because that is a great deal of our communities… and seeing them all have a good time and compete; it was really enjoyable," Watson said.

The All-Indian Golf Tournament four-person scramble teed off June 27, awarding prizes for longest drive, closest to the pin and hole-in-one.

Festival - 12

MCNDH hosts press conference to clarify intentions

MCN Medical Center updates discussed

Jessica McBride/*Editorial Assistant*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health held a press conference June 23 at the MCN Council House regarding rumors surrounding MCN Medical Center, formerly Okmulgee Memorial Hospital, and the availability of services for non-Natives.

MCN Secretary of Health Lt. Cmdr. Seneca Smith said that a misunderstanding occurred during the transfer of electronic systems.

"Any time you move forward and implement electronic health records, there's steps that you have to take… once we brought our orthopedic surgeon in, we wanted to make sure that he was able to adjust to the system that we had and make sure that he would be able to ease his way into the patient load."

According to Smith, the issue has been addressed, and formerly affected both Native and non-Native patients.

"All that's been taken care of and now we're seeing everyone. So it wasn't just non-Native patients that were being limited; it was Native patients also," Smith said.

Smith denied that MCNDH would lose federal funding if services were offered to non-Natives.

Smith said that keeping the facility open for the community is a priority.

"The main message today is that we are here for the community and that's why we're making the major changes that we're making," Smith said.

The press conference provided an update about MCNMC. Smith said that when MCNDH

Intentions - 4

MCN mourns the loss of respected war hero

Survivor of Bataan Death March remembered

Chelsie Rich/*Project Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger ordered the flags on the MCN Tribal Complex to be lowered to half-staff in honor of Phillip Coon, a full-blood citizen, father, grandfather, friend, hero, prisoner-of-war and World War II veteran; who passed away June 23 at 95-years-of-age.

"This Nation has lost a hero. Someone that was very well respected, not only in the Creek Nation, but the entire country," Tiger said.

Coon was born May 28, 1919 in Okemah, Okla.

He attended the Euchee Mission School in Sapulpa, Okla., and then Haskell Indian School in Lawrence, Kan.

After Coon graduated from HIS, he enlisted in the U. S. Army in 1941.



MNN File Photo

Phillip Coon, a full-blood citizen, father, grandfather, friend, hero, prisoner-of-war and World War II veteran; passed away June 23 at the age of 95.

Coon was a private first class in the U.S. Army 31st Infantry, 2nd Battalion, H Company.

He was a machine gunner who was stationed in the Philippines before the war started.

Coon served during World War II and was taken prisoner by the Japanese in 1942.

He was the last Native American survivor of the Bataan Death March; a forced 60-mile march of U.S. and Filipino prisoners, by the Japanese military, that resulted in the death of thousands of captured soldiers.

"We ran out of food, ammunition, and men, but we didn't run out of prayer," Coon said from a previous interview.

He also credited his faith in God and the faith of others with helping him to survive.

"He always told me that he felt like he was able to overcome the Death March because of his faith and because he knew people back home were praying for him," Tiger said.

Coon survived the Bataan Death March, POW Camps O'Donnell and Cabanatuan and the Japanese Hell Ships.

These vessels were named as such due to the horrible conditions on board, where prisoners were crammed together and provided with no proper way to relieve themselves and little or no food and ventilation.

He worked in the coalmines on the mainland of Japan until the end of the war and was the last survivor who was forced to bury his fellow prisoners who had died.

He created 'The Cross' at POW Camp O'Donnell and it is now located at the National Prisoner of War Museum in Andersonville, Ga.

MCN Veteran Affairs Services Office Director Ken Davis spoke about Coon's involvement with VASO.

"He was very active. He came along quite a lot. He had been marching with us

Hero - 4

MvskokeMedia

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NAJA
Native American Journalist Association

Members of the Native American Journalists Association

New faces battle for District 8 seat



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Oklahoma State Senate District 8 candidates share their election platforms.

Muscogee (Creek) citizen among candidates

Jessica McBride/*Editorial Assistant*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — She was the first woman to represent her district as a Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council representative and the first female mayor of the City of Eufaula.

Now, Selina Jayne Dornan is in the running to be the first female Oklahoma State senator from District 8.

"It's not about breaking records, but it's more about helping the people," Dornan said.

The senate seat is being vacated by Roger Ballenger, who announced he would not seek re-election in January.

District 8 encompasses a large rural area, including Okmulgee County, and portions of Okfuskee, Muskogee and McIntosh Counties. This is also a large portion of the MCN jurisdiction.

Dornan faces a runoff against Gary Clason Aug. 26 for the democratic nomination.

While working for the MCN executive director's office, Dornan saw citizens come in with questions, concerns or simply seeking assistance.

"I thought I would be in a better place to help them because I saw so much need," Dornan said.

Dornan believes serving on the National Council helped her in her position as mayor.

"I saw that same need within my city," Dornan said. "I was able to help the City of Eufaula and our citizens."

While she said campaigning was difficult, it is one of her favorite things to do because she gets to meet people and learn about the many concerns and issues they have.

Dornan is excited to have a chance at the next level by serving the people of District 8.

"I just feel like I can help more people and do more," Dornan said.

According to her campaign website: www.selinaforsenate.com, Dornan feels that education cuts, the cities' aging infrastructure and the need for employment are issues that she would like to tackle.

Clason said that he wants to fulfill the needs of the people of District 8.

"I want people to be able to reach out to me," Clason said. "I want to be able to listen and figure out the problem and hopefully come up with a solution, and if not a solution; maybe a way that we can come to an agreement or some middle ground."

Clason said that if elected, he wants to address healthcare and education.

"I want us to be able to move out of the bottom 25 percent of the state in education for public schools and get us into the middle of the pack just as quick as I can," Clason said.

For more information about Clason visit: www.facebook.com/garyclason.oksenate.

The winner of the runoff will face republican nominee Roger Thompson from Okemah, Okla. He is the president of News Leader Company, which publishes the 'Okemah News Leader' and the 'Tri-County Herald.'

Thompson said his focus is bringing jobs to the area.

"We need more jobs in our area. The three counties that are represented in District 8 have some of the highest unemployment rates inside the state," Thompson said. "We need jobs and we need quality jobs."

Thompson was also asked to serve as the secretary-treasurer for the Okemah Indian Community Development LLC.

He said that working with the tribes in the area is an integral part of representing District 8.

"I'm excited about working not only with District 8 but also, you know; the tribes are very, very important part of senate district number eight and working on economic development together," Thompson said.

For more information about Thompson's campaign visit: www.thompson4oksenate.com.

The general election for District 8 is Nov. 4.

For more information about voting in Oklahoma call the Oklahoma State Election Board at: 405-521-2391 or visit: www.ok.gov/elections/index.html.

Hero

Continued from Page 1

since 2004, when we had our marches for the veterans' parade… last year we took the World War II veterans up to Washington, D.C.," Davis said.

In 2013, Coon received the Prisoner of War Medal, the Bronze Star, and the Combat Infantryman Badge.

Coon was a member of the Alligator Clan and Nuyaka Tribal Town.

"We're going to miss him. We already miss him. He's well respected. We were honored as the Muscogee (Creek) Nation to have him as a tribal citizen. I think Indian Country was honored to have him being who he was," Tiger said.

Coon was preceded in death by his wife Helen on March 15, 2013 and is survived by his four children.

Phillip was interred July 27 alongside Helen at Fort Gibson National Cemetery.

"It is nice that he and my mother are back together again and I miss him but I know he's where he wanted to be," Phillip's son Michael said.

Native leaders hail decision on football trademarks

Officials weigh in after team patents canceled

Gary Fife/*Radio Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Native leaders were excited as the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office ruled June 20, that it had canceled federal trademarks related to the controversial Washington D.C. professional football team.

"We decide, based on the evidence properly before us, that these registrations must be canceled because they were disparaging to Native Americans at the respective times they were registered," the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board said.



A similar attempt in 2005 to revoke the trademark failed after an initial revocation was reversed. The six trademarks were granted between 1967 and 1990.

Earlier this year, President Barack Obama said he would "think about changing" the name if he owned the football team. On Capitol Hill, 50 U.S. Senators signed a letter opposing the team name and calling for a change.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger shared his opinion about the decision in an interview with KRMG Tulsa.

"Native American mascots need to be removed from all non-Native American teams. I've gone out publicly saying that I am for changing the NFL football team's name," Tiger said. "…I think there's no difference in what our African American communities consider racial when the 'N' word is used."

Tiger went on to say that the financial gain made from the Washington mascot makes the mascot all the more disturbing.

"Particularly troubling, because it involves a national football team making money off of the term," Tiger said.

Tiger believes that education is key to combatting this issue.

"The stigma against Native Americans is still there and that the public needs to be better educated on their culture and how these issues should be addressed," Tiger said.

Kevin Gover, Director of the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C., has added his support for the patent office ruling.

"This is not the first time the trademark has come into question, but our hope is that the ruling will lead the Washington football team owners to reconsider their stance that a stereotype can be a source of pride and the claim that the name and logo honor Native Americans," Gover said.

The Museum hosted a national forum on the subject in February.

Jackie Johnson Pata, Executive Director of the National Congress of American Indians said that NCAI has heard from several tribes expressing their support for the ruling.

"It reinforced what we thought the ruling should be and what we thought the Trademark Commission would actually do, which was basically to reiterate very clearly that the NFL, the Washington NFL team name is disparaging and offensive to Native Americans," Pata said.

NCAI is the largest representative Native American lobbying organization in the country.

Pata did not view the ruling as a complete victory but acknowledged it as progress.

"We know that doesn't officially say the Washington team can't use their mascot and emblem on their merchandise," Pata said. "But we do know that's a stage of a process that continues to reinforce that it is a disparaging and derogatory mascot and we need to move beyond it."

Arguments supporting the team name cite its use as tradition and honoring Native Americans. Pata addressed this belief in a historical context.

"During the time when this team decided to take on this term, it was still a time in this country where there was still very much domination over Native communities. There were acts of termination being proposed in Congress. It wasn't a time when people were rising up and revering and honoring Native Americans.

"In fact, if you look at the team history, you can see very clearly that this team wasn't a team that was honoring, really, any ethnic minority. Not that we are considered a minority but a political entity subdivision. That connotation of 'honoring' Native Americans was not part of the initial determination of giving this name to the team," Pata said.

The football team owner Dan Snyder has publicly vowed 'Never' to change the name and is expected to appeal the ruling.

After the Patent Office decision, Bob Raskopf, the team's trademark attorney, released a statement with a promise to appeal.

"We are confident we will prevail once again, and that the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board's divided ruling will be overturned on appeal. This case is no different than an earlier case, where the Board canceled the Redskins' trademark registrations, and where a federal district court disagreed and reversed the Board."

NCAI and other groups say they disagree and think the trademark protection ruling will ultimately be upheld.

Pata said the latest ruling is different from the earlier case because the technicalities that caused the first to fail have been eliminated.

MFSI to hold second annual conference



MNN/Amanda Rutland

The Mvskoke Food Sovereignty Initiative will be hosting the Empowering Youth, Veterans, Ranchers and Farmers Annual Conference July 30-31 at the Oklahoma State University Extension Center/Okmulgee County Fairgrounds.

Organizations partner for community outreach

Amanda Rutland/*Media Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Mvskoke Food Sovereignty Initiative has partnered with the Oklahoma Black Historical Research Project Inc. to host the Empowering Youth, Veterans, Farmers and Ranchers Annual Conference July 30-31.

Last year, the conference focused only on farmers and ranchers. This year, MFSI wanted to include veterans and youth and extended the conference to a two-day event.

MFSI Office Manager June Marshall said the event would feature different activities.

"There is a lot of things we will be doing to get people interested in gardening and growing their own food," Marshall said. "Healthy foods are so important in our lives."

Marshall said that 45 percent of returning veterans live in rural areas. Marshall believes that agriculture can help provide for veterans.

"Veterans returning to the United States from active duty face many challenges. The Department of Labor reports as of May 2010, over 20 percent of young veterans are unemployed," Marshall said.

The event correlates with MFSI's mission to promote a healthy lifestyle.

"This is a continuing effort to show our community members all the available programs that is out there for them through USDA (U.S. Department of Agriculture)," Marshall said.

Day one of the conference will be youth related. State colleges and universities have been invited to the event to give a college readiness seminar. Other groups have been invited such as the Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma, Smokey the Bear from the Ad Council and the Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation.

The keynote speakers are Chickasaw Nation citizen and the Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative Director, Janie Simms Hipp and Natural Resource Conservation Service Oklahoma State Director, Gary O'Neil.

In a 'Native American Times' article posted Jan. 9, Hipp said that everyone benefits from agricultural programs.

"The initiative we are embarking upon will support tribal governments and rural communities throughout our region and the nation in making investments in our nation's food and energy security," Hipp said. "When indigenous communities use their natural resources to create jobs and strengthen local communities, we all benefit."

A complementary breakfast and lunch will be provided. The event is free and open to everyone.

The event will be held at the Oklahoma State University Extension Center/Okmulgee County Fairgrounds from 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. MFSI asks that people interested in attending RSVP by July 28.

For more information call: MFSI at 918-756-5915 or email: jmarshall@mvskokefood.org or shar_carter@ymail.com.

WCIC hosts Spirit of Oklahoma football camp

Former OU, professional football players encourage citizens

Kyla McKown/*MNN Reporter*



Mvskoke Media/Tyler Roberds

Former University of Oklahoma and professional football player Jamelle Holieway looks on as youth participate June 20 in the fourth annual Spirit of Oklahoma Football Camp at Wetumka High School in Wetumka, Okla.

WETUMKA, Okla. — The Wetumka Creek Indian Community partnered with Wetumka High School June 20 to bring the 2014 Spirit of Oklahoma Football Camp to Wetumka, Okla.

This is the fourth year for the camp, which was formerly held in Weleetka, Okla.

The idea for this year's camp came after community members noticed the need for children's activities throughout the summer.

"We're big into athletics and the kids are big into athletics; so we thought there's nothing greater than bringing Jamelle Holieway down for the football camp," said Tony Fish, Wetumka Indian Community Chairman.

Holieway is a former University of Oklahoma quarterback, who was able to bring other former OU football stars to the camp, including: Thomas Lott, Emmitt Green and Keith Sparks.

The camp was free of charge and open to those ages 7-16.

Fish said this is the perfect opportunity for the youth in rural communities, such as Wetumka, to learn the fundamentals, improve their ability and most importantly, focus on the importance of education.

"It's not only the skill sets that comes with football and sports in general, but we talk about education and how important it is in your life and your career," Fish said. "As you know, you can't play sports if you don't have the education behind you to support that."

The camp was an educational opportunity for the youth and a chance for those in rural communities to get training they need to excel in sports.

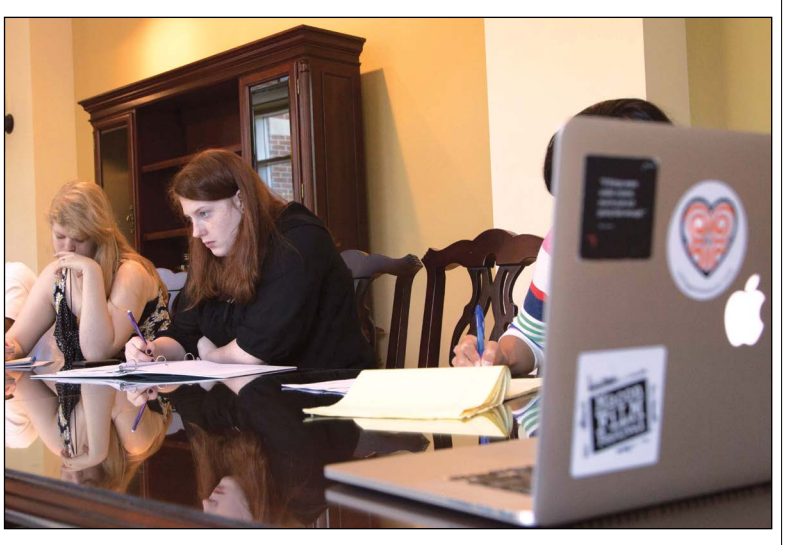
Holieway said the purpose of the camp is to provide instruction to those who typically cannot afford football camps.

> **"I know one day, one of these kids will grow up, get a scholarship to go play sports somewhere. Then they can come back and tell their story to another little kid."**
>
> **— Former OU, Pro football player Jamelle Holieway**

The goal of the camp is to focus on smaller schools and communities so that these potential athletes get the opportunity to compete with youth in urban areas.

"I know one day, one of these kids will grow up, get a scholarship to go play sports somewhere," Holieway said. "Then they can come back and tell their story to another little kid, and say, 'you know what? I was at this same camp and came back every year.' "

Mercer University hosts media camp about Ocmulgee Mounds



MMN/Amanda Rutland

Students participating in The Mercer University Collaborative Center For Journalism digital media camp interview University of Oxford Doctorate of Philosophy Candidate in Archeology Stephen A. Hammack via Skype June 15 to contribute to an app about Ocmulgee National Monument.

Students contribute to app for Ocmulgee National Monument

Amanda Rutland/*Media Specialist*

MACON, Ga. — The Mercer University Collaborative Center for Journalism held a digital media summer camp June 15-21. The camp taught 10-12th grade high school student skills such as photography, videography, interviewing and social media usage.

The CCJ staff chose to focus the camp on content related to the Macon community. The first year covered the music of Macon and this year; the students gathered content about the Ocmulgee National Monument.

For the camp, 39 students were broken into eight groups named after famous journalists. According to CCJ Editorial Assistant Meg Donahue, the staff hoped this would inspire the students.

Among those students were Muscogee (Creek) citizens Elisa Fields and Lainey Hill.

Donahue believed that focusing the camp on ONM would raise more awareness about it.

"The first year was Macon music. It was about Otis Redding and the Allman Brothers; music that was important to Macon," Donahue said. "We focused on the Mounds this year because it is such a cool thing to have such long history and such an important place to so many people located in our backyard."

The app was something both Hill and Fields were grateful to contribute to.

"It will be a place not only for Oklahoma and the Creek citizens that can't go out there; it will make it so they can see the things that are going on. I thought it was really cool that me and Elisa got to experience it," Hill said.

The content will be channeled into an app for ONM. ONM Superintendent Jim David said the app would be good for the park.

"We have a good museum, some nice exhibits and some wayside panels along the trail, but I see this as yet another addition to that," David said. "It will help educate and assist our visitors a better grasp on what this park is all about."

According to David, there are two bills yet to be introduced to Georgia Congress that could expand the Ocmulgee park boundaries.

Georgia Congressman Sanford Bishop sponsored one of the bills and is building a following. It would expand the park from 702 to 2800 acres.

The students visited Ocmulgee on the first evening of camp June 15 for a tour and returned to the monument June 17 to gather photos, video and interviews. Each group was given a different part of the park to focus on.

To ensure accuracy, the campers interviewed Muscogee (Creek) Nation Cultural Preservation Department Manager, Johnnie Jacob and University of Oxford Doctorate of Philosophy Candidate in Archeology, Stephen A. Hammack.

Returning student Rebecca Grieco attended the camp last year and said she enjoyed the camp more this year.

"I didn't realize that, especially this area, went as far back as the Mississippian Era," Grieco said. "I guess it is really interesting for me to have learned about just how a sacred spot can carry its meaning over so many thousands of years."

Hill had a different perspective on the experience.

"I thought it was awesome because most Creek citizens don't get the opportunity to go out there; especially at the age of 17," Hill said.



MMN/Amanda Rutland

The Mercer University Collaborative Center for Journalism held a digital media summer camp June 15-21. The camp taught 10-12th grade high school students skills such as photography, videography, interviewing and social media usage.

MCN continues on paperless trail

Upgrades allow Nation to mitigate paperwork

Kyla McKown/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — In an effort to advance Muscogee (Creek) Nation departmental systems and eliminate surplus paperwork, the MCN Higher Education, Human Resources and Finance Departments are doing their part.

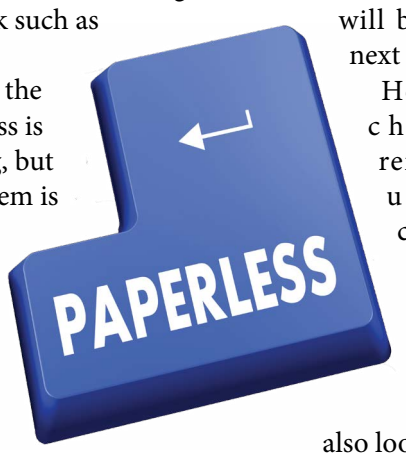
MCN Controller James Pratt said it is time for the Nation to make changes for the future.

"Years ago, Creek Nation used to be on the leading edge of technology," Pratt said. "But over a period of time, we've slipped backward and other people are taking the lead on this thing. We need to catch up and that's what we're trying to do."

MCN Finance Department

With more than 1,250 employee timesheets at the MCN, the Finance Department generates 1,250 pieces of paper every two weeks; not including other paperwork such as leave forms.

Pratt said that the timesheet process is time consuming, but the bigger problem is finding storage for the paperwork.



Certain payroll documents are required to be stored for seven years and the Nation leases point of destinations, or PODs, at an off-site location to house these and other records.

"It's a big problem and we need to be able to have digital storage available to process dutifully and not carrying the paperwork back and forth because paperwork does get lost at times," Pratt said.

Pratt said the switch to paperless timesheets has been an ongoing and long process.

The tribe is looking to use Paycom as the new database system, which would allow employee access through remote licensing or web-based. Remote licensing would allow multiple devices, including smartphones, to login to the database.

The idea is for Finance to coordinate with Human Resources to allow employees to submit leave requests for approval through the web-based login.

"The process is simplified dramatically," Pratt said. "Right now it's eliminating the 1,250 timesheets; plus the Summer Youth Program employees. That's about 1,800 timesheets."

He said the database would also: keep track of employees' annual and sick leave balances, pull up past timesheets and check stubs, among other features.

The department plans to implement the paperless timesheets Oct. 1.

After the system is squared away and paper timesheets are done away with, the department plans to eliminate paper checks and provide an option for employees to be paid through direct deposit to a prepaid Visa debit card.

MCN Higher Education

Higher Education has been working the past year to implement a prepaid and reloadable debit card system for Muscogee (Creek) students who receive scholarship funding.

MCN Higher Education Manager Emmanuel Bezzell said the department is using Systems Method Incorporated, or SmiONE, for the Visa debit card service.

He said it is the perfect company to work with because it does not cost the tribe anything to produce these cards.

Right now, the department, MCN Finance and SmiONE are in the testing stages for the debit card system.

Bezzell said the debit cards are expected to be available for the fall semester.

The cards work anywhere Visa is accepted and other monies can be deposited to the card as well.

"We're hoping these cards can also be used for payroll next year for the Summer Youth," Bezzell said.

With the paper check process, it takes about two to three weeks for tribal grant monies to reach students. The aim of the debit card system is to alleviate this waiting period.

"The two week process will now be done in 24 hours," Bezzell said. "Once they get the card in hand and activate it, the money will be available the next day it's posted."

However, paper checks will remain available under certain circumstances, like if a student is incarcerated.

Bezzell said the department is also looking into a new database system with Intertribal Solutions Database, which would allow the application process for financial aid to be done completely online.

In the future, students will be encouraged to communicate with the department via email as part of the going paperless initiative.

"It's easiest to communicate with us as opposed to sending a letter," Bezzell said. "It's a good way to track all documents for us and them as a reference as well."

MCN Human Resources Department

As another way of eliminating cost and storage space, the Human Resources Department has been working to make the mandatory employee Mvskoke history course available online.

Mvskoke history course instructor, Sandra Peters has worked with Mvskoke Media to record a digital copy of the course for new employees.

MCN Executive Director Jerry Wilson said the tribe would also like to look into making the history course available online for all Muscogee (Creek) citizens.

"It'll cut costs and time and be a part of any new employee orientation," Wilson said. "At the same time, I envision putting it on the web for citizens that want to learn more about the Creek course."

The online course will also save money by eliminating the need for an instructor and a physical location to hold the class, which will lower utility costs.

Wilson said that the online course should be completed and available in early July.

"We're finishing up editing and I think Communications did an excellent job on their part and I give credit to the College of the Muscogee Nation for the baseline curriculum," Wilson said. "It's a team effort from everybody's part."

Intentions

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



MNN/Sterling Cosper

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger (left) and MCN Secretary of Health Lt. Cmdr. Seneca Smith (right) speak about the status of the MCN Medical Center during a press conference June 23 at the MCN Council House in Okmulgee, Okla.

obtained ownership of the facility, the debt of the hospital was around $4 million. Since then, he said, the debt has been lowered to $327,000.

According to Smith, MCNDH has invested $350,000 for mechanical updates to the facility and is planning to upgrade various departments within the hospital.

Currently, MCNDH is planning to add a $1.7 million MRI that is estimated to be available for patients around the beginning of December.

Among other personnel, MCNDH plans to add a full-time psychiatrist and pharmacist.

It was also announced that an electronic health records system would be added to the hospital.

"They currently had an EHR but what we're trying to do is we're trying to make sure that all our facilities are on the same EHR," Smith said.

Other projects, such as an urgent care center, are planned as MCNMC pays down debt and can put money towards updates.

"We want to make sure that we get that $327,000 down to zero and then that will open up the door a lot for us to put some of that revenue towards that type of project," Smith said.

Smith said that the facility is funded through third party revenue from billing patients' insurance companies.

Smith said that MCNDH has big plans for the hospital.

"Health shows no race… health effects everyone," Smith said. "We're having to make up several years of updating that has been missed and then compete and keep up with what healthcare is doing now."

MCN Principal Chief George Tiger said that great things can happen through partnerships developed with the Okmulgee community.

"The future is bright for this community. It's just a matter of us working together," Tiger said.



Mvskoke Media brings home 17 media awards

NAJA
Native American Journalist Association

MNN places 12 times in Division II

Media Release

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Native American Journalist Association announced the winners of the 2014 National Native Media Awards June 25 ahead of this year's annual conference July 10-13 in Santa Clara, Calif., themed 'Going Tra-Digital.'

This year, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Mvskoke Media department won seventeen awards in Division II, which includes publications with a circulation between 4,000-8,000.

MM placed first for: Best Feature Story in Radio, Radio Communications Specialist Gary Fife; General Excellence in Radio, Fife; Best Feature Story in TV, Multimedia Supervisor Jason Salsman; Best News Photo, Editor Sterling Cosper; Best News Story in Print, Cosper and Best Coverage of Native Americans in Print, Editorial Assistant Jessica McBride.

Second for: Best Feature Story in TV, Reporter Kyla McKown; General Excellence in TV, 'Native News Today;' Best Sports Photo, Cosper; Best Column, Reporter Darren DeLaune; Best Feature Photo, Cosper; Best News Story in Print, Media Specialist Amanda Rutland; Best News Photo, Rutland and General Excellence in Print, 'MNN.'

Third for: Best Sports Story in Print, DeLaune; Best News Photo, Fife and Best Layout in Print, 'MNN.'

To view the results for Division II visit: www.naja.com/news/2014-native-media-awards/professional-division-ii/.

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Free T-shirt for every Diamond Club member! (while supplies last)

Electronic Ticket Drawing
Diamond Club members will earn one (1) electronic drawing ticket with every $100 of coin in from July 1st – August 2nd. On August 2nd, one (1) electronic ticket drawing every ½ hour from Noon to 8:00 PM at the main casino or travel plaza. Each winner will receive $777. At 8:00 PM, we will have one (1) electronic ticket drawing for $7,777.

Hot Seat prize drawings every 15 minutes for a $77 Free Play from NOON - 8:00PM.

$7 Match Play for standard Diamond Club members.
$7 Free Play for 1st Class Diamond Club members.
$27 Free Play for VIP Diamond Club members.
$77 Free Play for Elite Diamond Club members.

BINGO

Anniversary reservations begin at NOON on June 1st. $25 reserves a seat and machine. $5000.00 Must Go Anniversary Games to qualify for the 21st Anniversary session on August 2nd begin.

How to Qualify:
Win any $5000.00 must go game
(Winner receives 1 ticket and a $75 gift certificate)
Each nightly session will have 5 drawings where each winner will receive 1 ticket.
Qualifiers can purchase additional tickets night of for $5.00 each.

Anniversary Pricing:
10 Regulars paying $1000.00
Paper $19.00
Electronic $49.00/$99.00/$149.00
Pic 8 - Must Go $500.00
Bonanza Must Go $500.00
$5000.00 Must Go-Players must qualify to be eligible
Late Minis

July 9th - August 2nd
Players who make a suited blackjack of spades on a Blackjack table, full house or better on UTH, straight or better on 3-Card Poker will earn an entry into our drawings.

Cash poker players will earn an entry by showing down a full house or better.
Poker Tournament winners will also receive drawing entries.

We will draw 3 winners from our drawing hopper at 8:00PM, 9:00PM and 10:00PM on Saturday July 12th, 19th, and 26th.



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Lighthorse stations officers at River Spirit Casino

Full-time assignment aims to deter response time issues

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*



MNN File Photo
Five Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthorse Police officers have been stationed full-time at River Spirit Casino as incidents in the past have raised concerns regarding the safety of casino customers and employees.

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Beginning July 1, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthorse Police Department has had more of a presence at River Spirit Casino in Tulsa, Okla.

Five Lighthorse officers began full-time duty at RSC as incidents in the past have raised concerns regarding the safety of casino customers and employees.

"We feel that if we have an officer there on duty it will help to keep the customers at ease," Chief of Police Richard Fixico said.

Lighthorsemen on patrol can possibly be in another county when an incident occurs at RSC and Fixico aims to alleviate this potential response time issue by having officers stationed at the casino.

"There are sometimes when we would have a call and we would have to drive with our lights and sirens to get there," Fixico said. "If we have an officer on scene, he will be there to take care of the problem right away."

According to Fixico, these officers will also be on call for issues abroad.

"If there is a call away from River Spirit and that officer is needed, we can pull him away to help with that situation," Fixico said. "Majority of the time, an officer will always be at the casino. There will be officers in the Tulsa area and an officer at River Spirit."

Lighthorse wants to help in every way to make sure the Margaritaville themed expansion at RSC goes smoothly.

"We are going to do everything possible to deter crime away from the casino," Fixico said. "Having an officer on scene will help with that."

Deputy Chief Jerry Wittman is excited to have these officers stationed at River Spirit.

"It will help on our response time and being a presence there," Wittman said. "Those are some positives that will help not only us, but the customers and the security that work there as well."

Scholarship Foundation Kicks Off Workplace Giving Program



MNN/Kyla McKown
Geebon Gouge, System Development Coordinator for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health fills out a form June 18 during the Workplace Giving Donation Program Kick-Off Event.

Employee contributions sought for scholarship funding

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Higher Education Scholarship Foundation Program held the Workplace Giving Program Kick-Off Event June 18 at the MCN Tribal Complex in Okmulgee.

"We want to get the word out to everyone that is here at Creek Nation," HESFP Resource Development Specialist Kryste Benge said.

The Workplace Giving Program aims to encourage scholarship donations from MCN employees for Muscogee (Creek) students seeking financial aid to continue their education.

"With this event, we wanted to talk to the employees and tell them about what they can do to help with the scholarships," Benge said.

Through the program, employees have the opportunity to donate to the scholarship fund through a biweekly payroll deduction. They can also donate by check or online.

"They can donate anywhere, from one dollar to how much they want," Benge said. "All donations are tax deductible. So at the end of the year, they will get a document showing them how much they have donated to the scholarship fund."

Employees can also create their own scholarship.

"If there is someone in honor or memory they want to make a donation to, they can do that as well," Benge said. "Several employees have done that already."

Secretary of the Nation and HESFP Board President, Bill Fife spoke about how donating can help students.

"With these donations, we can help someone to be able to continue their education," Fife said.

The kick-off event was not the only opportunity for employees to sign up for the giving program.

"We have about 5,000 employees throughout Creek Nation and our goal is to be able to talk to everyone of them and tell them about our program," Benge said. "Hopefully, quite a bit of them will start donating to this fund."

For more information about the program, contact: Kryste Benge at: 918-732-7763 or Elsa Fraser at: 918-732-7754.



Muscogee (Creek) citizens get help with school clothing



MMN/Darren DeLaune
This year, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation School Clothing Program began accepting applications year round.

Vouchers available year round

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation School Clothing Program is taking applications from families seeking financial assistance to purchase clothing for the upcoming school year.

"There was an enormous turnout from the families last year needing assistance," School Clothing Coordinator Robbin Hayes said. "We are expecting more and more each year."

The tribally funded program started accepting applications May 1. This year, the school clothing program began accepting applications year round.

"It will be from May 1 of this year to April 30, 2015," Hayes said.

The program felt it needed to make services more accessible to families.

"We have some families who like buying winter clothes," Hayes said. "There are some schools that require uniforms. If they wait until around school starts, they might not be able to get the uniforms. This gives them time to be able get their clothing."

Once a family applies for the voucher, they will not be able to apply again until on or after the date of the previous year.

"For example, if they apply on May 17 of this year, they will not be able to apply again until on or after May 17 of next year," Hayes said. "Also with the receipts, the latest they can be turned in is April 30. There is no more 90 day deadline."

An MCN citizenship card is required for each child and cards belonging to the parents and CDIB cards will not be accepted. Applications must be completed entirely.

All children will need to have a school verification form to go along with their application. This sheet is attached to the application. Report cards will not be accepted.

"A lot of the schools will charge for report cards and some of the parents have to get them online," Hayes said. "We decided it was best to only have the school verification forms."

Hayes wanted to let the parents know that there is a 'Release of Information' page in the application that has two check boxes. This page will need to be completed in its entirety with one of the boxes selected.

"We have to have one of those boxes checked," Hayes said. "If a box is not checked, it will be considered an incomplete form and will be sent back to the applicant."

Jamie Tulsa, who has been a recipient for over 10 years, is pleased with the assistance the program provides.

"This program has been a big help to all of us," Tulsa said. "Some families are not financially stable, so having this program is one big help that they can get."

Applications for the program can be obtained online at: www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov or by calling the office at: 918-549-2473.

Applications can be mailed to: P.O. Box 580, Okmulgee, OK, 74447; faxed to: 918-549-2478 or emailed to: schoolclothing@mcn-nsn.gov.

"We do have a dropbox on the porch area should they need to drop it off after hours," Hayes said.



MMN/Darren DeLaune
An MCN citizenship card is required for each child and cards belonging to the parents and CDIB cards will not be accepted. Applications must be completed entirely.

Citizen graduates with full academic scholarship



Submission
Muscogee (Creek) citizen Austin Burwell is looking forward to attending Rogers State University in Claremore, Okla., and pursuing his goal of working in radio.

Burwell aims for career in radio

Evan Tansey/*College Work Program*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Austin Burwell has concluded his last moments at Dewar High School.

In the fall, Burwell will be attending Rogers State University in Claremore, Okla. He received an academic scholarship that lasts four years and covers full tuition.

Burwell shared some of his academic career plans.

"I plan to major in communications," Burwell said. "With that I hope to be able to do something with radio."

What made him decide to pursue radio is the concept of relating to people and getting along with them and also serving as a mediator between different ideas and opinions.

During his time at DHS he: served as senior class president, was a member of the Oklahoma Indian Honor Society; National Technical Honor Society; President of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America for two years; on the Superintendent and Principal Honor Roll and participated in band for five years and choir for one year.

While at DHS, Burwell was also involved with the community. He served as a summer camp counselor for Muscular Dystrophy Association. He was also active in the Dewar First Baptist Church youth group, and volunteered with the church nursery and vacation bible school.

Burwell was heavily involved in the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America.

"My first two years in it, I was just a part of the body," Burwell said. "My last two years I was the president."

Burwell is excited to attend RSU this fall.

"I got to tour Rogers and found out they have their own radio station," said Burwell. "It is a really good station. I am hoping that I can do work study there so I can get my education while working there on campus."

Burwell will also be in the honors program at RSU.

"I was selected as one of the 50 finalists, and then selected to be one of the twenty in the program, which gives me a full ride scholarship," said Burwell. "That sealed the deal when choosing RSU."

Burwell shared that he wants to be involved with radio later in his life, wherever that may be.

Austin Burwell is the son of Tammy and Curtis Harvey and Jesse Burwell. He is a member of Dewar First Baptist Church.

Muscogee (Creek) graduate begins new chapter in life



Submission
Muscogee (Creek) citizen Amberly Proctor is looking forward to her college career at Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee, Okla.

Proctor reflects on past and prepares for future

Evan Tansey/*College Work Program*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) student Amberly Proctor has completed her final moments at Hanna High School.

During her time at HHS she was: Senior Class Valedictorian, maintained a 4.0 GPA, served as Senior Class President, on Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence Academic All-State Scholar, Oklahoma Academic Scholar and a member of the Oklahoma Indian Honor Society.

In the fall, Proctor will be attending Oklahoma Baptist University, in Shawnee, Okla. She was named a University Scholar and received a full tuition scholarship.

"I am very excited to go to OBU," Proctor said "My sister, mom and aunt graduated from there, and my cousin goes there now; so I am definitely excited."

Proctor shared some of her plans for her academic career.

"I will be majoring in biology," Proctor said. "Eventually, I'd also like to go to optometry school."

Proctor has experienced trouble with her eyes and so optometry intrigued her. She desires to know and understand more.

While at HHS, Proctor was heavily involved with basketball. She was named varsity basketball captain. Her other accomplishments include: OCA Small East Class B Girls All-Star Team, Oklahoma Indian All-State First Team and selection for the Oklahoma Girls Basketball Coaches Association.

"I love to play basketball. It helped make my four years memorable. I do not think I will continue with sports in college.

"I think I am just going to ease into the transition from my normal life to college life; so I think I am going to hold off on sports for now, but that could change," Proctor said.

Proctor shared some of her inspirations.

"My family inspires me. My sister… she sort of paved the way for me. I look up to her a lot.

"My parents always encourage me, whether it is academics or sports. They always want me to do the best I can and tell me it is OK to go above and beyond what is expected of you," Proctor said.

She also shared another inspiration.

"My faith is very important to me," Proctor said. "I grew up in a Baptist church and I believe this is how God planned it. I do believe that through Christ all things are possible."

Proctor shared some career goals.

"I may come back and work for Muscogee (Creek) Nation; who knows," said Proctor. "I know some Creek people are diabetics and that affects the eyes. I would like to come and help address that situation; not only by helping, but also maybe preventative measures."

Proctor said that she has some reservations about going off to college. However, she is not letting them hold her back.

"I am excited about growing up," Proctor said. "College is going to be moving off on your own and it means things are not going to be the same. I am looking forward to that."

Proctor is the daughter of Darrell and Robin Proctor. She is a member of Weogufkee Indian Baptist Church and the Ecovlke Clan.

Citizen helps keep traditional artwork alive



Submission
Muscogee (Creek) citizen Dan Beaver strives to keep Mvskoke traditions alive and share them with others.

Beaver preserves heritage through war clubs, other pieces

Evan Tansey/*College Work Program*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Dan Beaver uses his creative skills to create traditional Native artwork. His area of specialization is war clubs.

"I have been making war clubs for about ten years," said Beaver. "I did some research on how to make them and then picked it up and started making them."

According to Beaver, his trade is self-taught. Beaver said he drew out the designs, looking at old pictures and drawings and different photos from over the years before starting to make them.

Beaver mentioned that he won some wood working awards in Florida for his art. He also shared that his wife won Best Overall for her beadwork.

"We try to keep traditions going on," Beaver said. "She makes turtle shells and I make war clubs and some other things. We do not make stuff just to sell; we make stuff to keep it alive."

Beaver shared that he has been honored for his designs and work.

He said that pair of ballsticks he designed are in the Choctaw Museum in Philadelphia, Miss.

Beaver also shared that he has sold his work all over the country through online outlets including Facebook.

"I have sent some stuff to Canada and California," Beaver said. "I have also sent some art to Norway."

Beaver also had the opportunity to showcase one of his war clubs at the Bicentennial Commemoration for the Battle of Horseshoe Bend in March.

"I am very blessed and fortunate to do something like this," said Beaver. "It amazes me."

Beaver is an officer with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthorse Police Department.

"Within the first couple of months here, I started to see not only a better view of myself, but of where I am supposed to be," said Beaver.

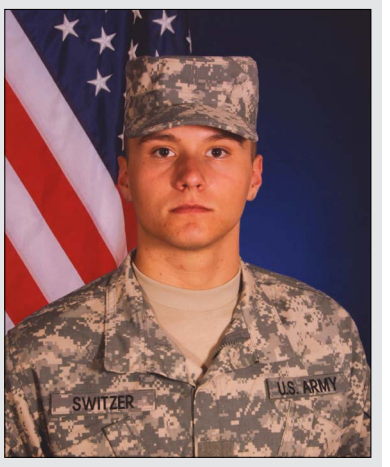
Beaver has three children, Peyton, Emily and Lilli who he and his wife teach about Mvskoke traditions through their art. He endeavors to teach other youth about these traditions as well.

For more information or to view photos of his art, look for Dan Beaver on Facebook or contact him at: policeindian@yahoo.com.

Muscogee (Creek) citizen joins US Army

Pvt. Switzer leaves for duty in Germany

Chelsie Rich/*Project Specialist*



HENRYETTA, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Pvt. Joshua Switzer proudly saluted and recited a pledge as he graduated from the U.S. Army basic training June 6 in Fort Benning, Ga.

Switzer, 19, made his decision to enlist in the Army Feb. 18 after contemplating on whether to join the U.S. Marines or the U.S. Army.

"In my opinion, the Army has the best job choices," Switzer said.

Switzer spoke about the decision-making process that led him to join the military.

"For me, it's a feeling of being able to provide for myself and be on my own… I like to be independent," Switzer said.

Switzer was sent to Fort Benning for 14-weeks of basic training.

While there, Switzer learned many skills.

"We shot weapons. We camped out and did ambushes. We learned how to throw grenades. We just learned a lot of stuff," Switzer said.

Switzer is part of the 1-19th Infantry Battalion.

Their mission is to transform civilians into disciplined and trained soldiers for the operating force.

"Knowing I have a set job and that I could make a career out of it is one of the reasons I did it," Switzer said.

After graduating from basic training, Switzer was able to return home for two weeks and spend time with family and friends before leaving again.

"I don't like being away from my family, so it's going to be different being away from them," Switzer said.

Switzer departed from the U.S. June 23 for Vilseck, Germany where he will be stationed for three years.

"It's so hard to see him leave but I'm so proud of the steps he's taken and the man he has become. I'm excited for the journey he's about to endure. We will miss him so much but we will be right here when he comes home," said his older sister, Amber Switzer.

Joshua Switzer is a 2013 graduate of Dewar High School and the son of Brian Switzer of Henryetta.

Campaign finance act postponed indefinitely during Council session

$40k sponsorship approved for Tulsa Charity Flight Night

Kyla McKown/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A regular session of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council was held June 21 at the MCN Mound Building in Okmulgee, Okla.

The Council addressed the following legislation:

• NCA 14-045 Creating a new chapter under MCN Code Annotated Title 37, entitled The Campaign Finance Disclosure Act and to establish a Public Officials Ethics Commission. Reps. David Nichols, Frank Coachman, Hill and Tiger sponsored the amendment, which was postponed indefinitely.

According to Hill, the amendment was postponed indefinitely in order for the legislation to be reworded and resubmitted under a new amendment.

"Mr. Nichols is going to communicate with the Election Board and go over the legislation with their department to make sure that it will work for them as well," Hill said.

• NCR 14-003 Selecting Kay Elsberry Bills to the board of directors of OneFire Holding Company LLC. Rep. David Hill sponsored the resolution, which passed 11-2 with Reps. Shirlene Ade and Dode Barnett voting against it.

• TR 14-056 Authorizing the Gaming Operations Authority Board to execute an agreement with Renovations by Helms Inc. for the renovation of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Duck Creek Casino. Rep. Robert Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 13-0.

• TR 14-070 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a service agreement with Loomis Armored U.S. LLC on behalf of the Office of the Controller. Hill sponsored the resolution, which passed 13-0.

• TR 14-075 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of understanding with the Oklahoma State Department of Health. Rep. Lucian Tiger sponsored the resolution, which passed 13-0.

• TR 14-076 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a 2014-2015 notice of renewal of pharmacy license with the Oklahoma State Board of Pharmacy for the Koweta Indian Health Facility. Tiger sponsored the resolution, which passed 13-0.

• TR 14-077 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a payroll service agreement with Paycom Payroll LLC for the MCN Department of Health. Tiger sponsored the resolution, which passed 13-0.

• TR 14-078 Confirming the nomination of Walter Pigeon to serve on the MCN Election Board. Ade sponsored the resolution, which passed 12-1 with Rep. James Jennings voting against it.

• TR 14-079 Authorizing the principal chief to execute and submit a grant application to the U.S. Department of Education for the operation of the Department of Health Vocational Rehabilitation Services and commitment for matching funds. Jennings sponsored the resolution, which passed 13-0.

• TR 14-080 Confirming the re-nomination of Clarence Johnson to serve on the MCN Citizenship Board. Rep. Thomas Yahola sponsored the resolution, which passed 13-0.

• TR 14-081 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a property damage release concerning damage to the Nation's property. Rep. Darrell Proctor sponsored the resolution, which passed 13-0.

• TR 14-082 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a contract on behalf of the Federal Roads Program for the purchase of a 2014 CT660S SBA 6x4 construction dump truck. Proctor sponsored the resolution, which passed 13-0.

• TR 14-083 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a Blackboard subscription agreement between MCN and Blackboard Inc. for the purpose of allowing Blackboard to provide voice, text and email messaging services for MCNDH. Rep. Joyce Deere sponsored the resolution, which passed 13-0.

• TR 14-084 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a Cerner Direct certificate request form between MCN and Cerner Corporation for the purpose of providing a secure network to exchange protected and confidential healthcare information for MCNDH. Deere sponsored the resolution, which passed 13-0.

• TR 14-085 Authorizing GOAB to execute agreements with Microsoft Licensing GP for services to the Nation's gaming facilities. Reps. Mark Randolph and Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 13-0.

• TR 14-086 Approving the iOS Developer Program License agreement between MCN and Apple. Deere sponsored the resolution, which passed 13-0.

• TR 14-087 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a gas sales agreement with Centerpoint Energy Services Inc. for MCNDH. Tiger sponsored the resolution, which passed 13-0.

• TR 14-088 Authorizing the construction of an MRI building at the MCN Medical Center. Ade sponsored the resolution, which passed 13-0.

• TR 14-089 Supporting the MCN Family Violence Prevention Program in the submission of the Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families Grant Program for domestic violence shelters and grants to Native American tribes for fiscal year 2014. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 13-0.

• TR 14-090 Authorizing the relationship agreement with Willowheart LLC to expire. Hill sponsored the resolution, which passed 13-0.

• TR 14-091 Authorizing GOAB to execute a service solution agreement with Tyco Simplex Grinnell for services to be performed at the Nation's gaming facilities. Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 13-0.

• TR 14-092 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a letter of intent with MMSH-Tulsa LLC to lease space at River Spirit Casino. Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 13-0.

• TR 14-093 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a utility easement across the Nation's property to Public Service Company of Oklahoma for the construction, use and maintenance of an electric utility line for River Spirit Casino. Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 13-0.

• TR 14-094 Authorizing the submission of an application for a right of way to be granted to PSO for the relocation of an electric transmission line on the Nation's River Spirit Casino property. Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 13-0.

• TR 14-096 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a letter amendment to the Nation's contract with HKS Inc. for additional services related to interior renovations at River Spirit Casino. Hufft and Hill sponsored the resolution, which passed 13-0.

• TR 14-097 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a letter amendment to the Nation's contract with PMG Native LLC for additional services related to interior renovations at River Spirit Casino. Hufft and Hill sponsored the resolution, which passed 13-0.

• NCA 14-080 Amending NCA 13-200, approving and authorizing the principal chief to execute and file the articles of organization with the Office of the Secretary of the Nation to form "OneFire Holding Company LLC" under the MCN Limited Liability Company Act and approving the operating agreement for "OneFire Holding Company LLC." Yahola sponsored the amendment, which was postponed until the July quarterly session.

• NCA 14-081 Authorizing a $250 special appropriation to a Muscogee (Creek) youth. Coachman sponsored the amendment, which passed 13-0.

• NCA 14-082 Authorizing a $400 special appropriation for a Muscogee (Creek) citizen to attend and participate in the U.S. Transplant Games. Tiger sponsored the amendment, which passed 13-0.

• NCA 14-083 Authorizing a $250 special appropriation to a Muscogee (Creek) Youth. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 13-0.

• NCA 14-085 Authorizing a $54,058 supplemental appropriation to the Veterans Affairs Services Office for the fiscal year 2014 budget. Ade sponsored the amendment, which passed 9-4 with Reps. Pete Beaver, Mitch Jack, Jennings and Proctor voting against it.

• NCA 14-086 Repealing NCA 99-176, authorizing a supplemental appropriation and expenditure of additional funds for the Military Memorial, as amended by NCA 00-43. Ade sponsored the amendment, which passed 13-0.

• NCA 14-087 Authorizing a $1,250 special appropriation to five Muscogee (Creek) youth. Jennings sponsored the amendment, which passed 13-0.

• NCA 14-088 Authorizing a $2,400 special appropriation for unpaid funeral services of a Muscogee (Creek) citizen. Nichols sponsored the amendment, which passed 12-0 with Barnett abstaining.

• NCA 14-089 Authorizing a $250 special appropriation to a Muscogee (Creek) youth. Ade sponsored the amendment, which passed 13-0.

• NCA 14-090 Authorizing a $3,076 special appropriation to a Muscogee (Creek) college student. Rep. Johnnie Greene and Hill sponsored the amendment, which passed 12-1 with Jennings voting against it.

• NCA 14-092 Authorizing a $2,000 donation to a political candidate. Hill sponsored the amendment, which failed 5-8 with Tiger, Randolph, Hufft, Jack, Ade, Deere, Jennings and Coachman voting against it.

• NCA 14-093 Authorizing a $2,000 donation to a political candidate. Deere sponsored the amendment, which passed 9-4 with Hufft, Tiger, Ade and Barnett voting against it.

• NCA 14-094 Authorizing a $62,045 supplemental appropriation for the MCN Office of the Controller. Coachman sponsored the amendment, which passed 11-2 with Jennings and Proctor voting against it.

• NCA 14-095 Authorizing a $2,000 donation to a political candidate. Hill sponsored the amendment, which failed 10-3 with Hufft, Jack, Jennings, Randolph, Tiger, Ade, Barnett, Deere, Coachman and Beaver voting against it.

• NCA 14-096 Authorizing a $40,000 special appropriation for a sponsorship and advertising opportunity with Tulsa charity, Flight Night. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 10-3 with Jennings, Proctor and Ade voting against it.

• NCA 14-097 Authorizing a $500 special appropriation to two Muscogee (Creek) youth. Hufft and Jennings sponsored the amendment, which passed 13-0.

• NCA 14-098 Authorizing a $1,750 special appropriation to seven Muscogee (Creek) youth. Jack sponsored the amendment, which passed 13-0.

• NCA 14-099 Authorizing a $1,104 donation to the Okmulgee Public Schools. Jennings sponsored the amendment, which failed 1-11 with Jennings abstaining and Proctor, Randolph, Tiger, Ade, Barnett, Beaver, Coachman, Deere, Hill, Hufft and Jack voting against it.

• NCA 14-100 Authorizing a $2,250 special appropriation to nine Muscogee (Creek) youth. Hufft and Jennings sponsored the amendment, which passed 12-0 with Jennings abstaining.

Reps. Greene and Nichols were excused.



MCN Community and Tribal Events

MVTO

The family of Phillip W. Coon would like to say Mvto to the many that have lifted us up in prayer and had encouraging words during Phillip's journey to his heavenly home. We will miss him very much but know that he is in heaven with Helen and our hearts are thankful for that.

Mvto to Rev. Andrew Johnson and Chaplin Bob Crowl who came to the hospital on the night of Phillip's passing to comfort us with prayer and song. It made for a late night but your kind words helped us in those first hours.

Mvto to Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger and First Lady Frances Tiger for the reading of the obituary, the blankets and the words of encouragement and comfort during these days. Mvto to Second Chief Roger Barnett and his family for taking time to come see us and giving words of encouragement and comfort.

Mvto to Little Cussetah Indian Baptist Church for allowing us to bring Phillip for viewing on Wednesday Night and the many stories his church members had to tell. We enjoyed the fellowship with the church members who were able to attend. Mvto to First Baptist Church of Okmulgee for allowing us to use your facility for our final goodbyes on this earth. Mvto to Revs. Jimmy Anderson, Steve Campbell and Ray Samuels for your stories about our Dad/Grandpa/Uncle and the many ways he blessed so many and touched so many lives. Mvto to Belvin Baptist Church for the use of your fellowship hall and the meals you prepared. We are grateful for your thoughtfulness and the yum yum (as Phillip would say) that you provided us.

Mvto Honor Guards from the Comanche Nation, Choctaw Nation, Chickasaw Nation, Seminole Nation, and MCN for your final salutes. Our family was honored with a 21-gun salute by MCN Honor Guard and the presence of all Honor Guards.

Our trip to Phillip's final resting place at Fort Gibson Nation Cemetery was made very easy because of Lighthorse Police, Lighthorse Explorers, Patriot Guard, Rolling Thunder Chapter 1 and DAV Chapter #9. Mvto to all of you for your final salutes and your attendance.

Mvto to the Yakama Warriors, Loren and Rebecca Corpus for coming from Washington State to pay your final respects. To Loren a giant Mvto for playing taps, the Army song and Amazing Grace at the cemetery and numerous other times during your stay. We appreciate you so much. Mvto to National Commander Don Loudner, Josie and Robert Desi for traveling to pay your final respects as well and for the comforting words you spoke to so many.

Mvto to Native Praise Choir and the many others who had beautiful songs and flute music for us throughout the wake and funeral services.

Thank you to State Representatives Mark McCullough and Sky McNeil for taking time from your busy schedule to pay your final respects. Mvto to Chairman Wallace Coffey of the Comanche Nation, Former Second Chief Ella Coleman of the Seminole Nation and Mr. James Floyd, Director of Veterans Affairs for your presence and comforting words to our family.

A big Mvto goes out to the MCN Communications Department, 'Native News Today,' Jason Salsman, 'Mvskoke Radio,' Gary Fife and MCN Tourism and Recreation for your beautiful tributes to our tribe's hero. The blankets, obituaries you printed, the tributes on the show and radio, as well as the video you did are very special to us.

And last but not least, Mvto to those who attended any or all of the services. Our family is thankful for so many friends and the comforting words you have for us.

Sincerely,
Phillip W. Coon Family

TCIC Elections set for Sept. 18

TULSA, Okla. — The Tulsa Creek Indian Community has set an election for the chairperson, secretary, treasurer and sergeant-at-arms board positions for Sept. 18 from 6-8 p.m.

The deadline for letters of intent and $20 payment for background checks is July 23 by 5 p.m.

The term lengths for chairman, secretary and treasurer are two years and the sergeant-at-arms is one year to fill a vacancy.

For more information contact Roman Powell at: 918-695-2781



CMCA names new interim president

Media Release

ANAHEIM, Calif. — George Windes was appointed as acting president of the California Muscogee (Creek) Association just prior to the death of CMCA leader Ken Taylor in May 2014. Mr. Windes abdicated this position at the CMCA gathering June 28 because of age and Jason Nichols of San Diego was nominated and placed in office as the new interim president. The voting was unanimous.

Several new board members were also voted into CMCA leadership positions: Russell Windes of San Juan Capistrano, Orange County area; Roxanne Carvajal, South Gate, Los Angeles area and Jeanna Spirou, Citrus Heights, Northern California area. The longtime board members who were retained are: Allen Mitchell, Torrance, sergeant-of-arms; Richard Procello, Los Angeles; organization aid; Jane Cazabat, Sun City, Riverside County area and George Windes, Yorba Linda, treasurer.

The gathering was enjoyed by all with a memorable potluck meal. The meeting started late due to a bridge collapse on a nearby freeway. If any citizens turned back because of the accident, we are so sorry and look forward to seeing you at the statewide annual gathering in Anaheim on Aug. 2.

Mvto!

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For more info, find us on the web at
www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

IN THE MATTER OF:
J. R., DOB: 09-22-2009
A. Y. T-R., DOB: 01-31-2011
A. L. T-R., DOB: 05-07-2012
J. R., DOB: 03-19-2014
Alleged Deprived Children.

Case No. JV-2014-03

JUVENILE SUMMONS

THE MUSCOGEE NATION to: Russell Angel Arguez Tun-Carillo, Natural Father of A. Y. T-R., A. L. T-R., and J.R.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a Petition has been filed in the Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation alleging that the above-named children are deprived children and that, as the parent of said child(ren), you have been named as the Respondent, all as more fully set out in the Petition.

YOU ARE THEREFORE ORDERED TO APPEAR at the Courtroom of the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee, Oklahoma, on the 5TH day of Sept 2014 at the hour of 9:00 A m. for an **Adjudication Hearing** and to there remain subject to the call of the Court until discharged so that you may be advised of the allegations and may answer that you admit or deny the allegations of the Deprived Petition.

You may seek the advice of any attorney on any matter relating to this action at your own expense. Or, if you are qualified as indigent, an attorney can be appointed for you.

IF YOU FAIL TO ATTEND THIS HEARING, YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS MAY BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED AND YOU MAY BE CITED FOR CONTEMPT OF COURT AND A BENCH WARRANT MAY BE ISSUED FOR YOUR ARREST.

Issued this 26th day of June 2014.

Josie King
Deputy Court Clerk
[Seal] Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

IN THE MATTER OF:
J. R., DOB: 09-22-2009
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Issued this 26th day of June 2014.

Josie King
Deputy Court Clerk

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE CREEK NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

DISTRICT COURT FILED
2014 MAY 9 AM 8 57
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
DONNA BEAVER
COURT CLERK

Muscogee (Creek) Nation
Plaintiff,
vs.
Eighty Dollars and no/100 ($80.00)
Defendant.

Case No.: CV 2014-62

NOTICE OF SEIZURE AND INTENDED FORFEITURE

THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION TO: Case Evan Grizzle, 500 N. Burgess, Holdenville, OK 74848; and all others claiming an interest in the above described property.

You are hereby notified that the Muscogee (Creek) Nation has seized and intends to forfeit the above described property under the provisions of MCNCA Title 22 §, 2-102, *et seq.*

Said property was seized on or about the 29TH day of May 2013, from said Case Evan Grizzle and forfeiture is sought for the reason that said defendant had money in close proximity to illegal drugs on his person;

The owner, claimant or other party in interest may file a verified answer and claim to the above named property within forty-five days of notice after which time the Muscogee (Creek) Nation will move the Court for an Order of Forfeiture for said property.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shelly Harrison, Prosecutor
Muscogee (Creek) Nation
Department of Justice
PO Box 580
Okmulgee, OK 74447

CMCA annual gathering set for Aug. 2

Media Release

ANAHEIM, Calif. — The California Muscogee (Creek) Association invites citizens and friends to the annual CMCA gathering to be lead by new CMCA Interim President Jason Nichols Aug. 2 from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Native American United Methodist Church, 800 S. Lemon, Anaheim, CA.

Visitors are expected from across California and nearby states as well as the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Complex in Okmulgee. Several MCN National Council representatives have already committed and the 'Muscogee Nation News' will send a staff member as well. We hope to welcome the principal chief and members of the MCN Citizenship Board and perhaps other tribal entities.

As in previous years, we will meet in the fellowship hall. There is a fenced grassy area for children to play.

Several classrooms will be utilized for the various departments from Okmulgee.

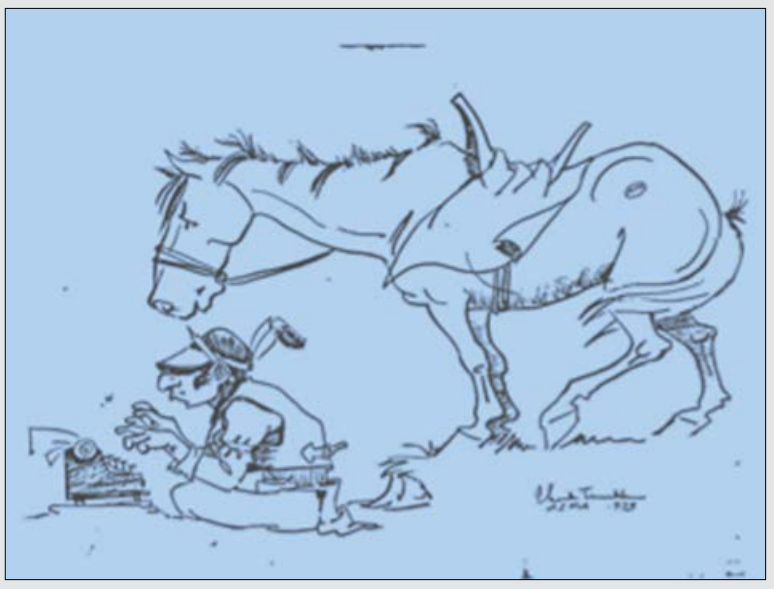
Please bring plenty of food and drinks for the potluck meal. Coffee will be furnished.

The Native American church is very near Disneyland and in the very center of Orange County.

For the meeting, citizens come from all over California and even adjacent states. Many friendships are renewed.

For more information contact George Windes, CMCA President at: 714-970-6468 or georgewindes@gmail.com.

Emvpanyv:
'One who tells a story'



Prez visits Sioux, World Cup Kiowa and a treasure leaves us

Gary Fife/*Radio Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — U.S. President Barack Obama made his first visit to a Native American reservation mid June.

The president and his wife, Michelle, traveled to the Standing Rock Sioux Nation in Cannon Ball, N.D. Pow-wow, speeches, photo ops, etc., etc.

While the Prez was there, the White House announced new initiatives, including reforms for the Bureau of Indian Education, efforts to bring high-speed Internet to tribal schools and training for teachers.

The president and first lady met privately with tribal youth to discuss the challenges of growing up on a reservation.

While most of Native America is glad that the President took time to see part of Indian Country, not everybody is happy…becuz…he didn't see enough of it. South Dakota tribes were kept out of the Obama meeting and they wanted to talk about the long-standing Black Hills land claim among other things.

According to a report by Brandon Ecoffey of 'Native Sun News,' Obama's visit to Standing Rock was celebrated across Indian Country. However, after days of speculation, neighboring tribes from South Dakota were barred from a roundtable discussion that the president had with tribal leaders from North Dakota.

The article said in part, "(Oglala Sioux President) Bryan Brewer and several other tribal presidents from South Dakota had traveled to Standing Rock for the meeting and had met in the days before President Obama's trip to decide which issues they felt were most important for Obama to hear in the short amount of time he had set aside to hear from tribal leaders.

"On the day of President Obama's arrival, the South Dakota delegation was informed by Standing Rock Tribal Chairman Dave Archambault II that only North Dakota tribes would be allowed to sit in on a closed door meeting with Obama and that he had been 'overruled,' according to President Brewer."

Maybe somebody from Obama's adopted Crow family got to him about meeting with Sioux?

Speaking of Sioux, June 25 marked the 138th anniversary of the battle of Little Bighorn, or 'Greasy Grass' as it's known to the Lakota. Warriors of the Lakota, Cheyenne and Arapaho annihilated George Armstrong Custer's detachment of the U.S. 7th Cavalry when the army attacked an Indian camp along the river.

We're proud of these Indian veterans defending their homes and families.

Here's news of another Indian veteran.

We're sad to hear of the passing of the late Phillip Coon. Coon was one of the survivors of World War II's infamous Bataan Death March. Coon was recognized for his service and sacrifices while serving in the U.S. military.

Our prayers and condolences for his family.

Now for something totally different: Are you a fan of soccer (or football as its known in the rest of the world)? How about the World Cup, the 'Super Bowl of Soccer?'

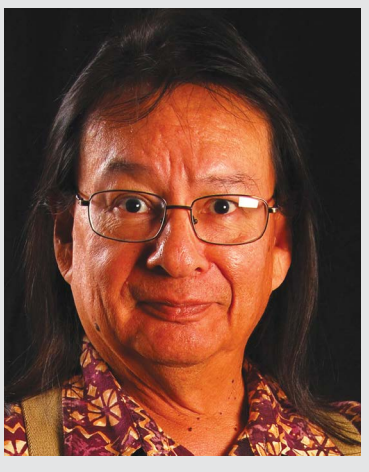
June 22, the Kiowa Nation (and I) cheered for the U.S. team and soccer star Chris Wondolowski as the U.S. team battled the team from Portugal. Chris is a Kiowa tribal citizen from southwest Oklahoma.

According to news reports, his Kiowa name is Bau Daigh, "Warrior coming over the hill." Wondolowski (his non-Kiowa name) plays on the U.S. Men's National Team and played in the recent 2-2 draw against Portugal.

It's about time a Native American athlete showed up in the world's most popular sport. By the way, the English play-by-play guy pronounced the tribe's name as "Ki-OWE-wah."

Well, here's some folks I never thought I would ever keep up with: the 'K' family.

You know, the sisters famous for being famous? Anyway, one of them whose name begins with a 'K' is catching heat for wearing a Plains tribe war bonnet.



Will these people never learn? The beat goes on.

"WILL THESE PEOPLE NEVER LEARN?"

Jr. Miss MCN shares plans for new title



MNN/Chelsie Rich
River Nokvs-Yvhikv Watson, 2014-2015 Jr. Miss Muscogee (Creek) Nation

Watson gains experience and prepares for future

Chelsie Rich/*Project Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — River Nokvs-Yvhikv Watson was crowned 2014-2015 Jr. Miss Muscogee (Creek) Nation June 7 at the River Spirit Event Center in Tulsa, Okla.

Watson made one of her first appearances as Jr. Miss MCN at the 40th Annual MCN Festival June 26-29.

"I am really honored and excited to be this year's Jr. Miss Muscogee (Creek) Nation," Watson said.

Watson has taken the opportunity of being Jr. Miss MCN to gain experience and knowledge that she will use later on.

"I thought that it would be a really good opportunity for me to overcome my fear of speaking by introducing myself to people and making myself stand out," Watson said.

Throughout the year of her reign, Watson will attend many more events and travel to different places to gain experience.

Watson is a senior at Dewar High School and is concurrently enrolled at Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology where she maintains a 4.0 GPA.

Watson is very active in her high school where she is the captain of the cheerleading squad, plays softball and is in the band.

For fun, Watson enjoys singing, dancing and listening and playing music, which is one of the deciding factors as to which college she would like to attend after high school.

"I love to sing and I would love to pursue that," Watson said. "I'm trying to narrow it down between six or seven schools that I'm really interested in going to and I'm trying to find schools that are accredited in music performance."

Watson's father is the one who inspired her to pursue music career.

"He has been in the music business since he was 19 and I get my musical incline from him," Watson said.

Watson is a member of the Bear Clan and Tukepvtce/Vpekkv Talvtikv Tribal Town.

Watson is the 17-year-old daughter of Julian Watson of Dewar and Randi Narcomey-Watson of Florida.

She is the granddaughter of Linda Lowe of Dewar, Okla., Rex Watson of Okmulgee, Okla., and Cynthia and David Narcomey of Bristow, Okla.

2014-2015 Miss MCN crowned



MNN/Chelsie Rich
Brittany Morgan Hill, 2014-2015 Miss Muscogee (Creek) Nation

Hill takes on many roles

Chelsie Rich/*Project Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Brittany Morgan Hill was crowned 2014-2015 Miss Muscogee (Creek) Nation June 7 at the River Spirit Event Center in Tulsa, Okla.

As part of her duties, Hill attended the 40th Annual MCN Festival June 26-29 as Miss MCN.

"The reason I ran for Miss Muscogee (Creek) Nation is that it has always been a dream of mine to represent my Muscogee people," Hill said.

Hill attended many events throughout the Festival and met several people along the way, which is something she said she would like to take away from her experience as Miss MCN.

"I would like to meet more of our people and get to know more of our culture; and to represent our people to the best of my ability," Hill said.

The Festival is just one of many events that Hill will attend over the next year.

Hill has taken on the role of Miss MCN but still makes time to pursue her education.

Hill is from Broken Arrow, Okla., and is a student at the College of the Muscogee Nation and Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology where she is majoring in sociology with a dual minor in Native American studies and tribal services.

Hill shared her future educational plans.

"Currently, my plans are after I graduate from the College of the Muscogee Nation, I plan to go to the University of Oklahoma and continue my degree in sociology," Hill said.

Besides representing for the Nation and attending class, Hill spends her spare time drawing, painting, beading and attending stompdances and powwows with her family.

When asked who inspired her, Hill's mother came to mind.

"My main role model would be my mom. She has taught me everything on what a Native women should be and how proud I should be of my culture," Hill said.

Hill is a member of the Deer Clan and Eufauluchee Tribal Town.

Hill is the 23-year-old daughter of Levi Hill of Eufaula, Okla., and Debbie Hill of Marty, S.D., and is the granddaughter of the late Siah Hill and the late Elizabeth Phillips Hill of Eufaula.

New leader announced for Festival Cornstalk Shoot



MNN/Sterling Cosper

The Cornstalk Shoot was held June 28 as part of the 40th Annual Muscogee (Creek) Nation Festival. Outgoing, acting Muscogee (Creek) Bow Shooters Society leader Shelby Flowers (right) pronounces his successor John Brown (left) to tournament participants during the cornstalk shoot opening ceremony.

Brown credits mentor, former coordinator for event success

Sterling Cosper/*MNN Editor*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Newly appointed leader of the Muscogee (Creek) Bow Shooters Society, John Brown developed a relationship with his mentor and former group leader Michael Berryhill during a difficult time in his life.

"I had gotten laid off right about the time that we were finishing the bow class and so I drew unemployment and got to spend a lot of time with Mike in the woods," Brown said.

Brown was named leader during the 40th Annual Muscogee (Creek) Nation Festival Cornstalk Shoot June 28 by acting leader Shelby Flowers who stepped in when Berryhill was unable to continue due to complications from cancer.



A T-shirt designed by artist Darren Dirksen and printed by his wife Darla Dirksen in honor of former Muscogee (Creek) Bow Shooters Society leader Mike Berryhill.

"I've had plenty of help and everything but it's time for me to step down and put somebody younger in there," Flowers said.

Berryhill had previously asked Brown to take over but he was hesitant.

"The first year I told him that was a big commitment; that if I committed, it would be from now on," Brown said. "I thought about it for a long time and Mike stayed after me, so I finally accepted when he got sick."

Despite his new position, Brown credits Berryhill for keeping this tradition alive.

"This is all Mike's vision. He didn't want to let the bow club perish," Brown said.

According to Brown, this effort has paid off.

"I think we had 42 shooters at our Festival this year and that's the largest crowd we've ever had," Brown said.

Brown asked Cherokee Cornstalk Shooters Society members Darren and Darla Dirksen to make T-shirts in honor of Berryhill for this year's cornstalk shoot participants.

"John Brown asked if we'd do the shirt and I said, 'yeah, we'll do it for free,' " Darren Dirksen said.

Darren Dirksen hopes to be able to present Berryhill with his original artwork for the shirt.

"I talked to John and I think it would be great if everybody would sign it," Darren Dirksen said. "We could print it on paper, have everybody sign it and then we could frame it."

Darren Dirksen is an artist who sells oil paintings at Joseph Gierek Fine Arts in Tulsa, Okla., and his wife, Muscogee (Creek) citizen Darla Dirksen, does screen-printing.

The couple originally combined talents by making T-shirts to fund their hobbies, which include knap-ins.

Knap-ins are gatherings for those who enjoy stone age craftsmanship such as arrowhead making, starting fires with natural materials and bow making.

With further encouragement from his mentor, Brown has also begun teaching bow making.

"I was scared to even try to attempt it but Mike always told me I was ready," Brown said. "We held our first bow class this past April and we had seven students who all finished their bows and some of them even shot them in our Festival shoot this year."

Brown has found his participation and new position with the bow shooters society fulfilling.

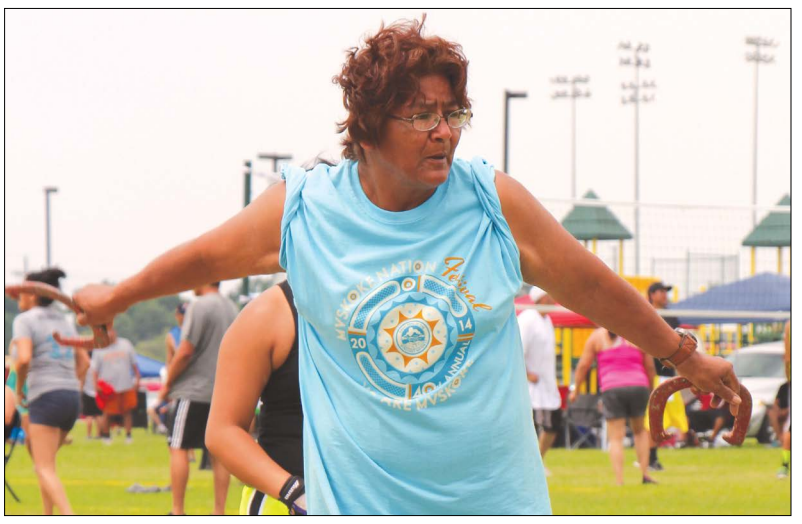
"It has really been a good experience for me; helping me grow as a person," Brown said.

He reiterated Berryhill's status with the society.

"All the praise and credit goes to Mike Berryhill," Brown said. "I'm just carrying on his legacy and everything we do now has Mike Berryhill written all over it. It's not me; it's Mike."

For more information about the Muscogee (Creek) Bow Shooters Society call John Brown at: 918-822-1445. To view artwork by Darren Dirksen visit: http://www.gierek.com/darrendirksen.

Event brings players young and old



MNN/Darren DeLaune

Horseshoe Tournament event coordinator and player Sarah Morgan takes aim in one of her matches June 28 during the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Festival.

Coordinator shares passion for sport

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The horseshoe tournament, which takes place during the annual Muscogee (Creek) Nation Festival, has seen a steady increase in competition within the last few years according to event coordinator Sarah Morgan.

People ages 18-60 come out to enjoy a challenge that requires both mental and physical abilities.

Horseshoes is a game where two players stand approximately 40 feet away from a stake and toss a horseshoe as close as they can to it.

There are two ways to score. The person can throw a 'ringer' where the horseshoe completely surrounds the stake or by throwing it close to the stake.

A ringer is worth three points and throwing it close to the stake is worth one. The highest number of points possible during a match is 21.

"It is always a great time when you are playing horseshoes," Morgan said. "Every year, we have a great turnout. We get the same group of people and always some more new ones that are trying the sport."

Morgan has been playing since 2003 when her husband, Sam Beaver introduced her to the sport.

After learning the sport and beating all of her friends consistently, she took it to the next level and started playing in tournaments. Soon, she began receiving invitations to play in national tournaments.

"This sport, like other sports, can be quick," Morgan said. "These guys know how to get close to the stake or get a ringer and if you are not there doing the same thing; the game can be over."

Morgan talked about what keeps it competitive for her.

"To be the best," Morgan said. "I want to be the best. If there is someone that beats me in competition, I hope to play them again soon because I want to beat them."

Although Morgan was coordinator at this year's festival, she also played and won in the women's competition.

"There are more men that play the sport," Morgan said. "Women are starting to like the sport and get a lot better. I don't know how I won but I did. The competition was tough this year and I expect next year to be just as tough."

While Morgan knows how to run tournaments, she said that she could not do it without her group that works with her.

"They are a big help to me," Morgan said. "They know what to do and how to do it to keep everything ready and moving along for the players. They help me out more than you know."

So if you play the sport during cookouts, reunions or get-togethers, but feel the competition is not as great anymore, Morgan has a simple solution for that.

"Come out to these sanctioned tournaments," Morgan said. "The competition is great and there is plenty of that at every single tournament."

MCN Festival features senior activities

Safke contest champion shares cooking tips

Kyla McKown/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — As part of the 40th Annual Muscogee (Creek) Nation Festival, the MCN Elderly Nutrition Building housed activities and competitions throughout the day June 27 for Muscogee (Creek) elders.

The competition got heated for Muscogee (Creek) elder Don Tiger and his opponents in the safke cooking contest.

Tiger, who took second place in the competition last year, was able to bring home first place this time.

"You want to win, but you want to have the best safke because I bring it to different senior functions," Tiger said. "And every one knows my safke because they look for me to bring it."

Tiger said he is not sure what it was that won him first place this year and he used the exact same recipe as last year.

"Just the taste; once you acquire the taste of safke and know what you want, you can get the right color and taste," Tiger said. "Because you can use different lyes for different tastes. I use two different lyes; blackjack lye and post oak lye."

Lye is ash made from trees.

Tiger started making his own safke about five years ago when his mother taught him.

"You use your safke grits; use your different lyes," Tiger said. "Now you can even get safke grits from the Mexican food stores called Goya. It's kind of already picked out."

According to Tiger, the next step is to cook the lye with the safke corn for about six hours in a crockpot.

He attended the Mvskoke Food Sovereignty Initiative lye making and grape dumplings class in March.

Tiger, who is a member of the Tulsa Creek Indian Community, plans to compete in the safke contest next year as well.

"Next year, it'll probably be about the same safke because it doesn't change once you master yours," Tiger said.

FESTIVAL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The tournament was hosted by Fountainhead Creek Golf Course in Checotah, Okla.

Shelly Berryhill, who works at the golf course pro-shop, said that there was a great showing for the tournament.

"We originally had 30 teams but ended up with 34 and a half teams… several Council members showed up with teams, so a really good turnout," Berryhill said.

The sun came out later in the day and back at the Omniplex, children participated in the Fun Fair by climbing a rock wall, riding the Ferris wheel and cooling off with snow cones.

The entertainment for the evening was Kix Brooks, formerly of Brooks and Dunn, and Diamond Rio.

"So far probably my favorite part has been the concert… I'm a big fan of Brooks and Dunn," Miss MCN Brittany Morgan-Hill said.

Early birds came out June 28 and started the athletic activities with the 5k Walk and Run. Participants young and old leaped across the finish line to receive a medal.

Fast pitch softball, horseshoe, volleyball and youth 3-on-3 basketball participants filled the Omniplex.

The Mvskoke Nation Marching Band marched down Sixth St. for the Festival Parade along with cars carrying tribal dignitaries and royalty. Baldridge and Okmulgee City Manager Roger Ballenger served as parade marshals.

During the Health Fair, Festival goers were able to have their child's car seat checked for safety, learn about MCN Department of Health programs and engage in a scavenger hunt.

Open houses were held for visitors at the MCN Veteran Affairs Services Office and the MCN Executive Building.

Attendees waited in line at the Mvskoke Dome building for a chance to meet and receive an autograph from R.J. and Jay Paul Molinere from the History Channel's 'Swamp People.'

A Creek Hymn Singing event at the Dome wrapped up the day's activities.

The sky was cloudy at the beginning of the evening entertainment, but the weather remained calm for the remaining festivities. The night's musical performances included: Martha Redbone, the Ohio Players, Buddy Guy and the Jacksons.

Spectators also enjoyed a fireworks show in between acts.

"This was the first time ever that fireworks were added to the Festival," MCN Director of Tourism and Recreation Will Lowe said. "We decided to add them because it was the 40th annual Festival and we wanted to make this event memorable."

Lowe said that the department plans to continue holding a fireworks show in the years to come.

The fast pitch softball tournament June 29 concluded the Festival events.

Overall, Lowe said that Festival was a success.

"The Festival was amazing this year. The events and competition was larger than years past," Lowe said. "We added more rides in the children's fair and had bigger prizes for all the sporting competitions."




2014

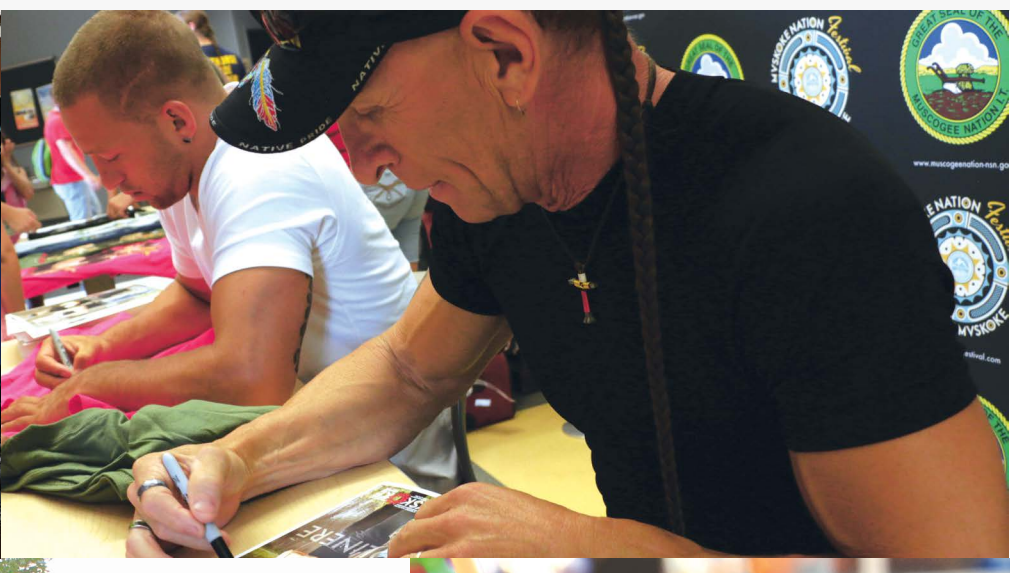

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THE PRIDE OF MVSKOKE NATION
MARCHING BAND




MVSKOKE NATION Festival
2014
GREAT SEAL OF THE MUSCOGEE NATION I.T.
40th ANNUAL
WE ARE MVSKOKE
















Miss Muscogee Nation







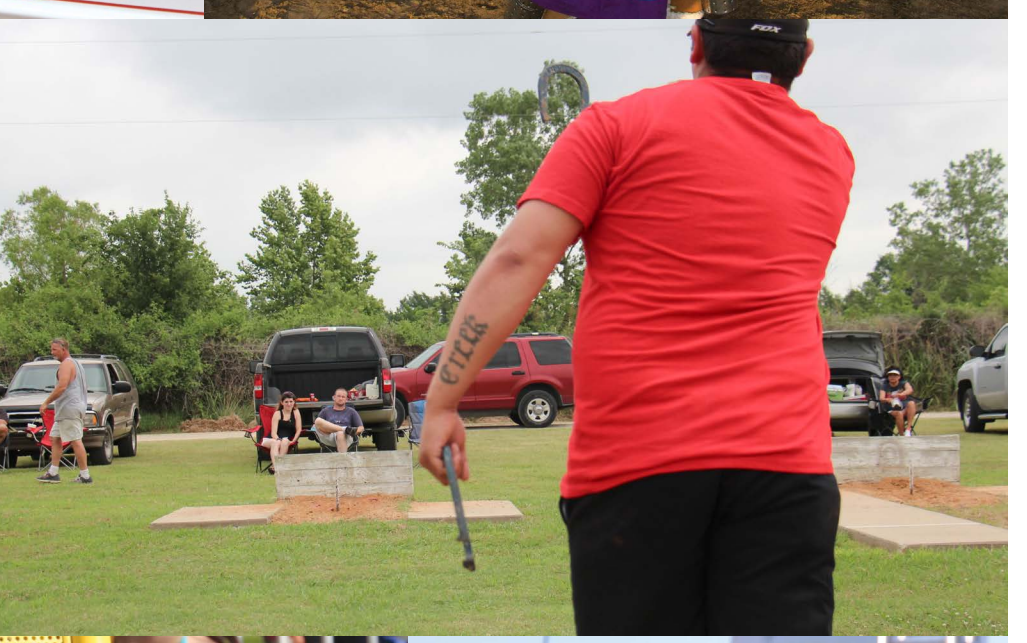





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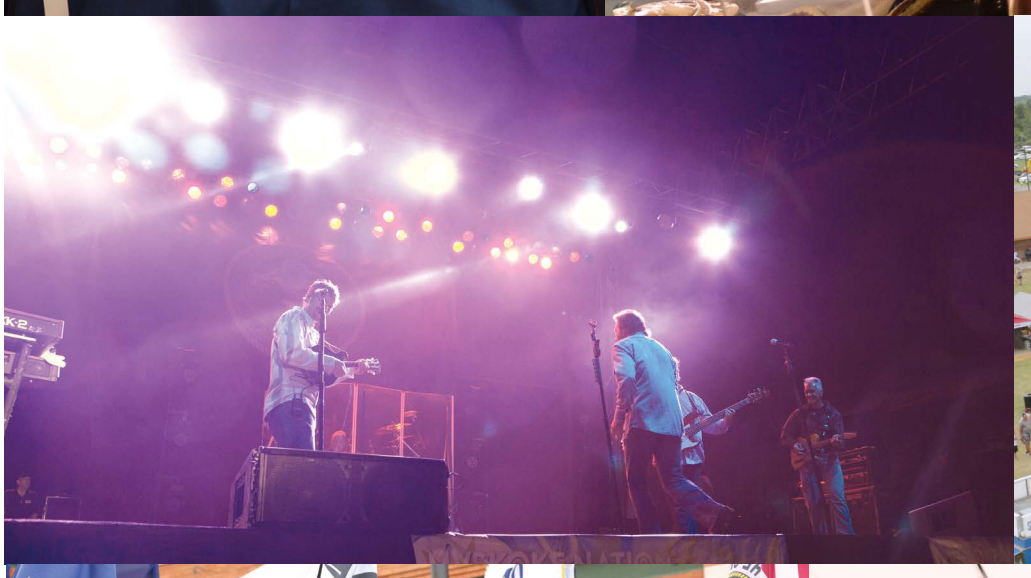

SMART
COOKIE




Chief
ON THE BATTLING BASTARDS OF BATAAN
NO MAMA NO PAPA NO UNCLE SAM





























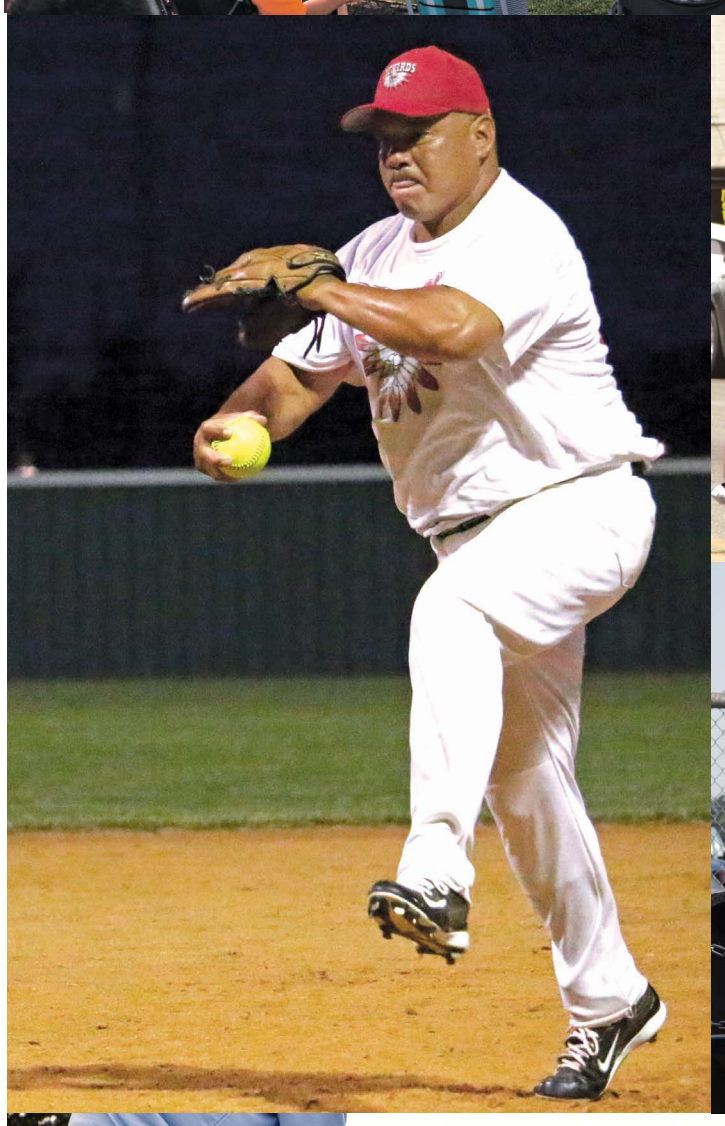










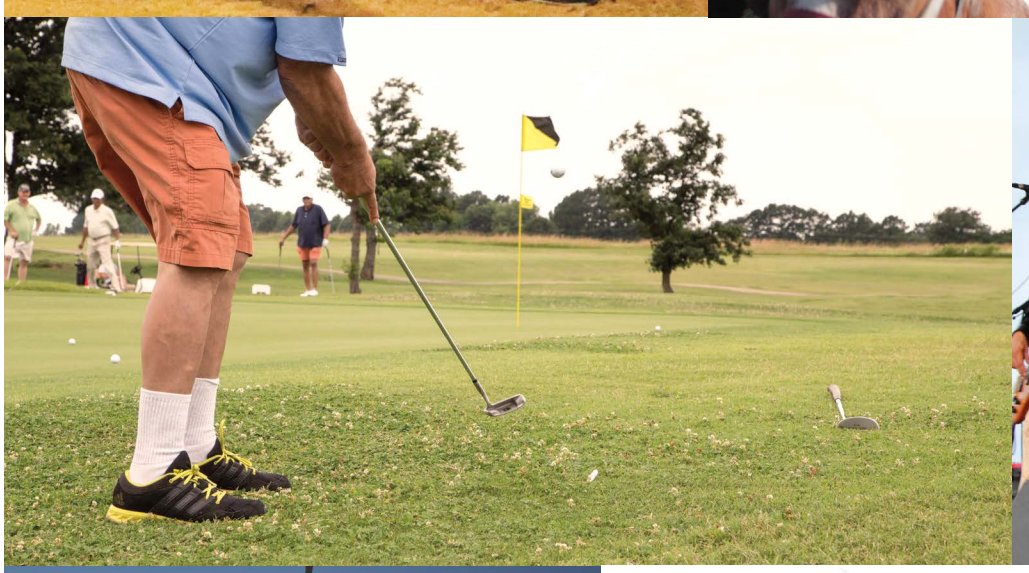



Frances Tiger George Tiger
FIRST LADY
PRINCIPAL CHIEF

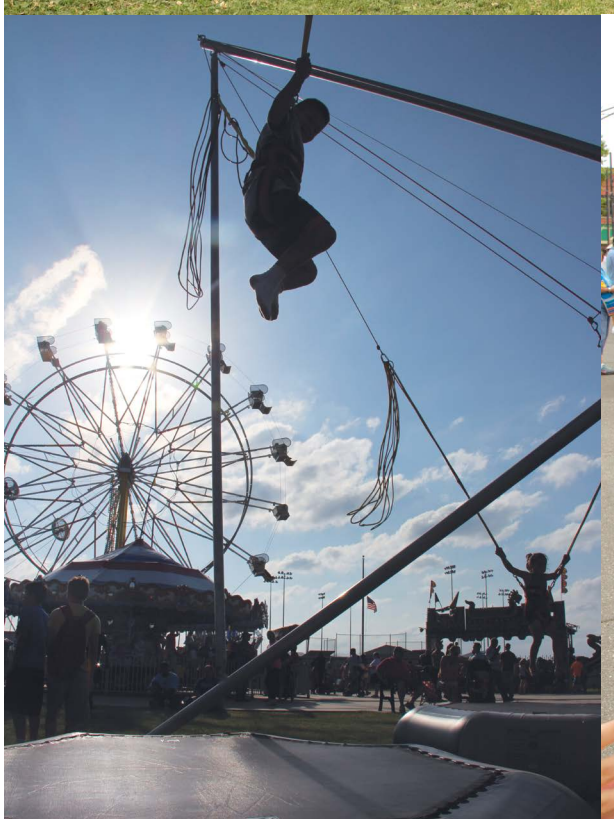


















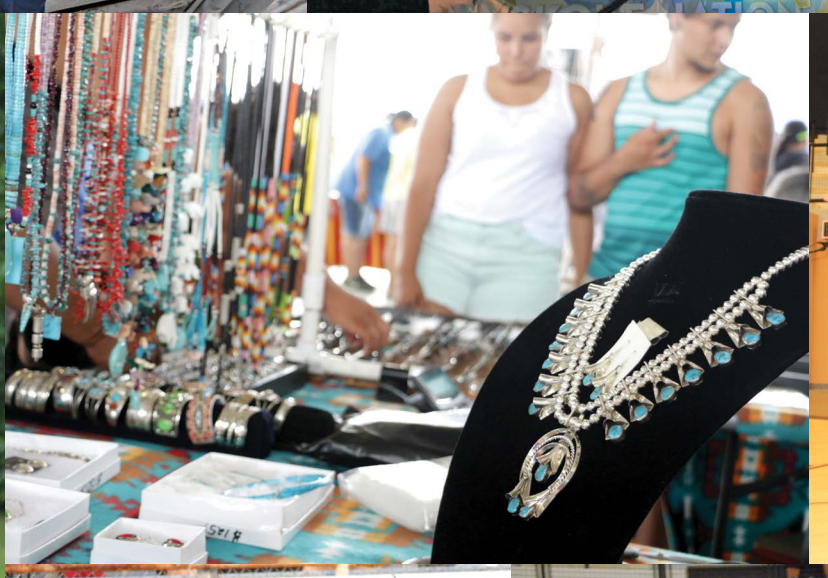






















In addition to photos from the 'Muscogee Nation News' staff, several volunteer photographers provided extended professional photo coverage of the 40th Mvskoke Nation Festival. The MNN staff would like to recognize and say 'Mvto' to the following photographers:

Blue Tarpalechee

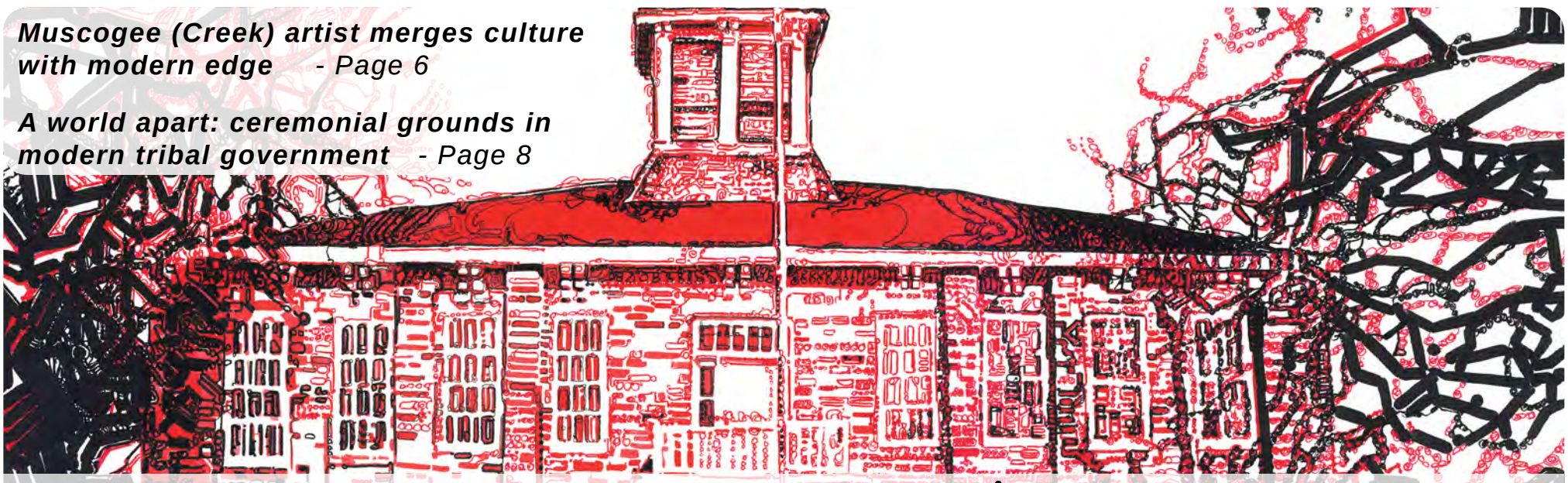
Jeannie Edwards

Ric Denney

David King

Muscogee (Creek) artist merges culture with modern edge - Page 6

A world apart: ceremonial grounds in modern tribal government - Page 8



Muscogee Nation News

Mvskoke Media production — The official tribal publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation

Aug. 1, 2014

Vol. 44, Issue 15

"Hiyo Rakko"

Big Harvest

ITC approves judicial committee during quarterly meeting

Council declares "National Day of Prayer"

Kyla McKown/*MNN Reporter*

THACKERVILLE, Okla. — The Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes quarterly meeting was hosted by the Chickasaw Nation July 10-11 at WinStar World Casino and Resort in Thackerville, Okla.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger opened the general session as ITC president.

Tiger spoke about a number of endeavors the MCN has accomplished throughout the past quarter, as well as the passing of Muscogee (Creek) elder Phillip Coon.

Coon was the last Native American survivor of the World War II Bataan Death March.

"He certainly was a supporter of his Nation; not only the United States but his Muscogee (Creek) Nation," Tiger said. "We were sad to lose him. However, we know it's because of people like Phillip who allows us to carry on with the foundation they've set."



MNN/Kyla McKown

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger spoke as Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes president July 11 at the WinStar World Casino and Resort in Thackerville, Okla.

The ITC passed resolutions concerning issues, which involved the tribes and their citizens. All resolutions passed unanimously.

Resolution 14-19 requesting support for Native contract and rate expenditure.

Resolution 14-20 supporting the maintenance of Oklahoma

Council - 2

MCN, Bacone help improve campus roads

Partnership paves the way for future collaborations

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

MUSKOGEE, Okla. — A street dedication and blessing ceremony was held July 18 at Bacone College in Muskogee, Okla., to celebrate a collaborative project between the university and Muscogee (Creek) Nation, which repaved over two miles of roads throughout the college campus.

MCN and Bacone College officials, along with members of the Muskogee Chamber of Commerce were on hand for the dedication.

The project focused on roads and parking lots. Some of the parking spaces were nothing but gravel according to Bacone College President Franklin Willis.

"The cost got very close to $1 million," Willis said. "Some of you know, who have been here more than six months, remember the pot holes and the condition of the roads."

Willis believes that the improvements have uplifted the spirits of Bacone faculty and students.

"As you can travel through this campus now, we can truly say that we got a location to be proud of," Willis said.

The road has been renamed Pikon Vcule En'nene, which means 'Old Bacone Road' in the Mvskoke language.

MCN Principal Chief George Tiger was in attendance for the ceremony.

"This is a great day for not only the Muscogee (Creek) Nation but for Bacone College," Tiger said. "Bacone has a very strong history with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, so it is always great when we get to help out with the college."

Bacone - 4

MCN mourns the loss of former principal chief

Beaver remembered as chief, coach and mentor

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation is mourning the loss of former MCN Principal Chief Robert Perry Beaver who passed away July 11 at his home.

Perry Beaver served as principal chief of the MCN from 1996-2003. Before that, he served as second chief and also as a representative of the MCN National Council.

"Perry fought a lot for strong organizational skills during his administration and he was certainly someone who cared about the people he served," MCN Principal Chief George Tiger said. "It's a testament to how he served as a mentor to a lot of people, including myself. He passed things down to me and I use them in my administration."

Perry Beaver was born Dec. 13, 1938 in Muskogee, Okla.

He graduated from Morris High School and attended Murray State College where he earned All-American athletic honors. He played football at the University of Louisiana-Monroe where he also earned All-American athletic honors before being drafted to play under legendary coach Vince Lombardi and the Green Bay Packers.



MNN/Amanda Rutland

Former Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief Robert Perry Beaver passed away July 11 at his home.

He earned his Masters of Education from Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Okla., and became and educator with Jenks Public Schools in Jenks, Okla., for 25 years. While at Jenks, he worked his way up to becoming head coach of the prestigious football program, leading the team to two state championships.

He has been recognized nationwide for his athletic talent, outstanding coaching and his contributions to the Native and local communities. Beaver was inducted to the Murray State, University of Louisiana-Monroe, Oklahoma Coaches Association and American Indian Athletic Hall of Fames.

He was a member of the Freemasons and Shriners.

Perry Beaver enjoyed spending time with family and friends, laughing and telling stories. His son Del Beaver shared some memories.

"My fondest memories are watching OU games with my father," Del Beaver said. "We love football and we are a football family. My first OU football game was with him in 1986. It was OU vs. Missouri and OU beat them 77-0. Even if we could not go to the games, we still watched them together at home. Those are my fondest memories of him."

Del Beaver said that this tradition will continue and that his father would want to keep it that way. It was not only about football but family. Getting together, eating and enjoying everyone's company are what pleased Perry Beaver.

Remembered - 2

MvskokeMedia

MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

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Chief addresses Jenks Chamber of Commerce



MNN/Amanda Rutland
Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger was the guest speaker for the Jenks Chamber of Commerce luncheon July 16 at Jenks High School Sharp Center in Jenks, Okla.

Tiger speaks about MCN economic growth

Amanda Rutland/*Media Specialist*

JENKS, Okla. — Local business owners and city officials filtered into the third floor of the Sharp Center at Jenks High School July 16 to attend the monthly Jenks Chamber of Commerce luncheon. The guest speaker was Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger.

Tiger shared updates and plans for MCN economic development in the Jenks and Tulsa areas. He discussed the MCN-owned RiverWalk, roads projects, the MCN Medical Center and the Margaritaville themed expansion at River Spirit Casino.

He said one of the first things he wanted to do upon taking office was forge partnerships with different communities.

"My thing coming in was that status quo is no longer acceptable at Muscogee (Creek) Nation," Tiger said.

Tiger gave a brief history of the RiverWalk acquisition and its development. Tiger mentioned that the purchase held a cultural significance because the area was originally allotted to a Muscogee (Creek) citizen.

"We were so excited about getting the property; we didn't have an infrastructure in place and it has taken us until this point to put some type of infrastructure in terms of what we do as a tribal Nation," Tiger said.

Tiger alluded to future developments at RiverWalk. He mentioned that MCN owns 30 acres located north of RiverWalk and across from the River Spirit Casino.

"At RiverWalk, you are getting ready to see an explosion," Tiger said. "We felt like we could be stewards of the piece of property alongside the banks on the Arkansas River; on the west side to compliment what we are doing on the east side."

Tiger spoke about the latest River Spirit expansion. He projected that Margaritaville should be open sometime in 2016.

Tiger went on to talk about partnerships with the commissioners of the 11 counties within the MCN jurisdiction. According to Tiger, MCN has built more roads and bridges in Okmulgee County, in the last two years than the total of the last decade combined.

"We offered money throughout the 10-11 county area we have jurisdiction in to other county commissioners," Tiger said. "We bring to the table the opportunity for us to really join our resources to provide better roads and bridges."

Tiger included MCNMC in his updates calling it a great purchase because no money was spent on it. MCN assumed the $4 million debt on the former Okmulgee Memorial Hospital, which Tiger said has been reduced to under $400,000.

Tiger explained that most of the economic development from tribes in Oklahoma stimulate the state's economy. He teased Tulsa City Auditor Cathy Criswell for not attending tribal events.

"You are really missing out. Here is why: you are going to all these groundbreakings Cathy while all that money they make goes back outside the state of Oklahoma," Tiger said. "But everything we do at 81st and Riverside stays here."

Tiger addressed the belief that Jenks could lose tax revenue on the RiverWalk property.

"Entities like the public school system can get taxes off of those things because, remember; we have Creek kids going to school here in Jenks as well. Why look at things in a negative manner when we are looking at a positive," Tiger said.

Groundbreaking held for new Okfuskee community building



Summer Youth/Shane Holuby
Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger along with members of the MCN National Council and Okfuskee Indian Community break ground July 8 for the new Okfuskee community building.

Ceremony held entirely in Mvskoke

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

OKFUSKEE, Okla. — A groundbreaking ceremony for the new Okfuskee Creek Indian Community building was held July 8 at the construction site 10 miles north of U.S. Route 40 on Oklahoma State Highway 48.

"Location is better for our members to attend the meetings and if we have guests; it should not be too hard for this building to be located," Okfuskee Community Chairperson Simmer Hicks said.

"This is a great day for MCN and Okfuskee Community," Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Rep. Frank Coachman said. "This community deserves it. They are one of the most traditional communities in our jurisdiction. Their meetings are entirely in our language and that is helping to keep our culture alive."

The community is one of the few, if not the only community, that holds their meetings entirely in the Mvskoke language. Like the meetings, the groundbreaking ceremony was held entirely in Mvskoke.

"We always hold our meetings in Mvskoke," Hicks said. "That will not change because that is how it should be."

The MCN National Council approved $972,485 through NCA 14-044 during the February regular session for the construction costs. The building will be approximately 5,400 square feet and will have a kitchen and safe room as well as a meeting room that will hold to up to 200 people.

"The community has been wanting a building for a long time and I am glad to be here and to be able to help get this built for them," President of GSE Construction Billy Martin said.

MCN Principal Chief George Tiger along with members of the MCN National Council and Okfuskee Indian Community were present for the ceremony.

The estimated completion date for the building is May 2015.

Remembered

Continued from Page 1

Beaver was laid to rest July 15. Funeral services were held at First Baptist Church in Okmulgee, Okla., and burial was at Big Cussetah Indian United Methodist Church Cemetery where Beaver was a member.

The MCN offices were closed at 1 p.m. that day in his honor.

Del Beaver wants his father to be remembered for what he has accomplished in office as well as his attitude and demeanor towards Muscogee (Creek) citizens.

"It wasn't the position that he cared for, it was the people," Del Beaver said. "He truly cared for the people 100 percent. When you see the citizens come up and pay their respects, you know that how he did a lot and has made an impact in a lot of people's lives."

Council

Continued from Page 1

Medicaid Services to Indian Health and exempting Indian Health Service Facilities/Tribal Facilities/Urban Indian Facilities Services from reductions.

Resolution 14-21 establishing a judicial committee for ITC.

Resolution 14-22 requesting federal acknowledgement consultations in Oklahoma.

Resolution 14-23 supporting the Foster Care Recruitment Campaign, a collaborative effort of the Five Civilized Tribes.

Resolution 14-24 supporting the U.S. Marshalls Museum Five Civilized Tribes Monument Sub-Committee.

The ITC also proclaimed the first Saturday of November as the "National Day of Prayer" for the Five Civilized Tribes.

"As you know, it's been brought out this morning as well, about the spirituality of our people; our belief in prayer," Tiger said. "And this morning, the Inter-Tribal Council is not going to vote on this but want to present to the Inter-Tribal Council as a way to exercise our ability to do this as a perspective of leadership of our council."

Tiger also spoke about the MCN Community Hospital in Okemah, Okla., groundbreaking May 16, as well as the record-breaking attendance for the 40th Annual Muscogee (Creek) Festival.

Federal representatives from the Indian Health Service, U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs and Department of Housing and Urban Development gave their quarterly reports, as well.

The Choctaw Nation will host the next ITC meeting Oct. 9-10.



Mvskoke Media bids farewell to Reporter Kyla McKown as she returns graduate school.

- Mvto for your service!

Muscogee (Creek) Nation 4-H Program returns from D.C.



Submission

Muscogee (Creek) Nation 4-H Program participants went to Washington, D.C., to learn about U.S. government and history. (Front: left to right): Jennifer Zackery, Yannah Wind, Stephanie Zackery, U.S. Rep. Markwayne Mullin, Brianna Crabtree, Ellisa Rusco, Jessica Wahnee, Kaylea Watts, Marcy Haltom and Koty Fox. (Back: left to right): Charles Marshall, Conner Fixaco, Felipe Alvarez, Chance Edmondson, Muskogee County Extension Agent David Adams, Robert Scarper, Rick Davis, John Luke Davis and MCN 4-H Program Manager Billy Haltom.

Participants learn historical, life lessons

Jessica McBride/*Editorial Assistant*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation 4-H Program hosted an educational trip to Washington, D.C., June 21-28 for eligible program participants.

4-Hers visited monuments around the Washington, D.C., area, the National Archives, Arlington National Cemetery, George Washington's house in Mt. Vernon, Va., Gettysburg National Military Park in Gettysburg, Pa., and Monticello, which is Thomas Jefferson's home in Charlottesville, Va.

MCN 4-H Program Manager Billy Haltom said that this trip was more than an educational adventure.

"Getting those kids to Washington, D.C., and letting them see how the government works, letting them see all the forefathers and all those monuments to the people who fought in the wars, you know; I think it's more of a life lesson," Haltom said. "I really think it opened up those kids eyes to first of all; there's more than just Oklahoma and second of all; this is what really happened for our country to be how we are today."

Muskogee County Extension Agent David Adams who helped chaperone the trip said that the children really enjoyed it.

"I think it's neat just to get them out and let them see another part of our nation," Adams said.

The group also visited the U.S. Capitol Building and had an opportunity to speak with a politician from Oklahoma.

"The last day we were there was the day that we went to the Capitol and Congressman Mullin met us there," Haltom said.

Adams encouraged MCN 4-H participants to take advantage of future opportunities with the program.

"Be watching for trips like this or other trips with Creek Nation 4-H and to take advantage of the opportunities that are out there," Adams said. "Taking more just makes these trips better."

Haltom said that he plans to offer a trip to program participants annually.

"I think we'll do Washington, D.C., on a every other year basis," Haltom said.

Next year, the MCN 4-H Program is looking to visit the Navajo Nation Veterinary Program in Window Rock, Ariz. No final arrangements have been made.

MCN Language Program holds immersion VBS



MNN/Amanda Rutland

Mvskoke Language Immersion Vacation Bible School students sing 'Jesus Loves Me' in class and learn Mvskoke words with the lessons.

Participants exposed to language in a different way

Amanda Rutland/*Media Specialist*

DUSTIN, Okla. — On a side street in Dustin sits the Faith Baptist Church made up of two buildings, the church and a fellowship hall. A banner is hung close to the road. The words read "Mvskokvlke Opunvkv, Kerrvs Monkat Somkvres!" in bold black letters.

Translated the sign reads "Mvksoke language, learn it or lose it." The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Language Preservation Program held the Mvskoke Language Immersion Vacation Bible School July 7-10 with classes lasting most of the day.

The VBS was open to kindergarten age children through adults, with two children's classes and one adult class. The VBS activities were the same as many others. The students learned verses, sang songs and made crafts.

This VBS theme was 'department of investigation' and honed in on the concepts: discover, decide and defend.

Pre-teen teacher Rebecca Barnett said this was the first time some of the students had been exposed to the language.

"This is a fun thing for them but the only difference from any other Bible school is we are learning Creek. We are doing it in the language," Barnett said.

Language Instructor and children's class teacher Gracine Hicks said this was a pilot program to prevent the Mvskoke language from dying.

"We want to start something, like if we had vacation Bible school at churches, our program would come in and do the Creek part; maybe teach them some songs," Hicks said.

The language was incorporated in various ways. In the adult class, Language Instructor Minnie Proctor taught the lesson in English in the morning and in the afternoon; the lesson was repeated in Mvskoke.

Proctor also taught hymns and 'The Pledge of Allegiance.'

One of the hymns Proctor taught was 'Estvmvn estomen fullatskis.' She explained that the song was brought from the homelands during removal.

Hicks took a different approach with her students. She taught the lessons in English, but she also taught hymns and a mealtime prayer in Mvskoke. She and the other teachers made coloring books of the Lord's Prayer to go along with the lessons.

Hicks would also speak to the children during recreation time and put the students' lessons into practice by having them say the meal blessing at lunch.

All the classes met in the sanctuary at the end of the day and shared what they learned.

TR holds community event for youth



MNN/Amanda Rutland

Day of Champions Camp participants rotated from station to station completing drills and learning ways to improve their football and softball skills.

Children receive knowledge about fitness, life skills

Amanda Rutland/*Media Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tourism and Recreation Department sponsored the Day of Champions Camp. This free annual event consists of a fast-pitch softball camp and a football camp conducted simultaneously at different locations on the Claude A. Cox Omniplex softball fields in Okmulgee.

TR Recreation Coordinator Rojer Johnson said the camps are funded through the TR budget as a way for the department to contribute to the local community.

"It is a benefit to the community because instead of our kids going out and getting in to trouble or anything else; we show them there is a better avenue to spend your summer days," Johnson said.

The camps were open to all children in the community ages 8–18. The children were divided into groups based upon skill level and age to provide appropriate instruction.

The camp instructors consisted of collegiate coaches from Divisions I, II and III schools, as well as past and present players.

DOCC taught techniques to improve athletic skills and fitness. In addition, DOCC promoted values such as discipline, respect, trust and hard work.

The camp also incorporated one-on-one mentoring.

"The coaches come up and work one-on-one with the kids," Johnson said. "And on the last day, talk to them about life choices and what is going on in their lives."

Parent Zachary Wise believes it is a positive event. This is the first year his sons participated in DOCC.

"For a lot of kids, they don't get the opportunity to go to camps like that and learn some of the basic stuff," Wise said. "I think it was a good learning experience especially for our kids."

On the last day, parents were encouraged to participate with their children. DOCC gave out T-shirts, invited guest speakers and the campers were allowed to take photos and get autographs from the coaches and players.

Challenge course used for training

Team building, trust exercises combined with physical activities

Jessica McBride/*Editorial Assistant*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Within the grounds of the Eufaula Dormitory in Eufaula, Okla., is the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health challenge course, which is utilized by tribal departments and MCNDH school programs.

The course is comprised of physical activities that combine low and high elements to test emotional, social and intellectual strength.

When a group comes in to participate in the challenge, MCNDH Behavioral Health analyzes what the goals of the group are.

"Mainly, it's team building; also communication skills, trust building," MCNDH Behavioral Health Interim Manager Thomasine Fife said.

The course offers elements such as a swinging log, trust fall and a climbing structure that can be divided into three activities.

The department has certified instructors to take each group through the course.

"We encourage them to come up with a plan first… and then someone will become the leader," Fife said.

Fife believes the course offers a different avenue to challenge both an individual's and group's abilities.

"That's what's really great about it, is that you use a different side of your brain," Fife said.

Fife said that the course is a good in-service for staff because it helps them bond, learn about each other and discover everyone's strengths.

Recently, the MCN Domestic Violence Prevention Program participated in the challenge course.

"I wanted it to be something that we could do where we could blow off some steam. Where we could have some fun but for it to still be a beneficial experience for our staff," MCN DVPP Manager Shawn Partridge said.

Partridge said that some individuals were nervous about participating but enjoyed the experience.

"Several of us are scared of heights," Partridge said. "All of us in those different activities and exercises really pulled together and supported one another through those activities."

Partridge felt that the group was challenged, as well as the individual participants.

For more information about the challenge course contact the MCNDH Behavioral Health Department at: 918-758-1930.

Creek Village employees try to make a difference



MNN/Darren DeLaune
Okmulgee County Health Department Nutritional and Fitness Program Coordinator Bobby Howard plays with some of the children at Creek Village in Okmulgee, Okla.

Children taught healthy living, physical activity and gardening

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — During the summer season, children are out of school and sometimes struggle to find activities to keep themselves busy. Also, many parents struggle to feed their children when they are used to having breakfast and lunch provided for them during the school year.

During the summer, some children will eat very little or sometimes not at all throughout the day.

Employees at Creek Village and the Okmulgee County Health Department are trying to help through their summertime program.

"We want to help in anyway possible to make sure these kids do have something to eat throughout the day."

- Creek Village Housing Manager Holly Barris

"We want to help in anyway possible to make sure these kids do have something to eat throughout the day," Creek Village Housing Manager Holly Barris said. "We provide the lunch for the kids. A very healthy lunch, with a lot of vegetables and fruit."

The program, which does not have a specific name, started out as a way to provide children with snacks on Fridays after school. Eventually, the program evolved to help out during the summer.

"We call it kids café or summer lunch. We really do not have a name for it," Barris said. "It does not have an official name; it is just lunch for the kids."

Lunch is served to the children at Creek Village Monday-Thursday.

"We get direct input from the kids on what they like and kind of help plan the meals," Barris said.

There is a core group of 20-25 children and sometimes more attend the summer feeding. According to Barris, of the 20-25, at least 40 percent of the children are Native American and Muscogee (Creek).

"We want the kids, all ages, to come out here with us," Barris said. "We get the kids from around the age of five to about 13 that comes out here with us."

After lunch, employees of the Okmulgee County Health Department Nutritional and Fitness Program provide activities for the children. Among the activities are kite flying, kickball, jump rope, hula-hoop and basketball.

"We want to keep these kids active throughout the summer as much as possible," Nutritional and Fitness Program Coordinator Bobby Howard said. "They provide the healthy food here at Creek Village and our program wants to keep them playing and burn some of that energy instead of sitting in front of the TV."

This is the third year for the summer feeding program. The food this year is donated through the First Baptist Church of Okmulgee. In previous years, different people wanted to help the children and donated what they could to help out.

"They see what we are trying to do and how we are helping out with the children and they want to help in some way," Barris said.

Another thing that this program is doing is helping the children with their own garden.

Seeds were given to the children before school let out for this summer through the Okmulgee County Wellness Coalition. The children did not know what to do with them at first until they asked Barris if they could start a garden.

"This is the children's doing," Barris said. "They have a lot growing with cucumbers, green tomatoes and green peppers. These kids are doing a great job of maintaining the garden. It is their garden."

Barris is happy about this program and wants to keep it going as long as possible for the children.

"They are looking for role models and someone to look up to," Barris said. "I want to help with that and there are other people who are helping these kids too and they see that. I do not want the kids to not have anything to do because that is when they could get into trouble or they could be lazy and that is where the health problems can begin."

For more information about this program contact Holly Barris at: 918-756-4423.

Bacone

Continued from page 1

Summer Youth/Shane Holuby
Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger and Bacone College President Franklin Willis prepare to cut a ribbon to dedicate the Bacone campus road project.

Tiger also spoke about how working on the roads can help the students and faculty.

"We have proved at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation that we are about education," Tiger said. "This goes to show that, while it is roads; it is helping in some part to make the college look a lot better."

According to Willis, the project has paved the way for future collaborations.

"One upgrade leads to another," Willis said. "One gets the other interested in building up the place. We are in the midst of talking with Creek Nation."






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Guide to MCN jurisdiction: Five Civilized Tribes Museum



MNN/Jessica McBride
The Five Civilized Tribes Museum features history along with a variety of cultural items and Native artwork of the Five Civilized Tribes who were removed from the Southeastern U.S. to current day Oklahoma.

Culture, art and history on display in Muskogee

Jessica McBride*/Editorial Assistant*

MUSKOGEE, Okla. — Located in Muskogee in the former Union Indian Agency building, is a museum dedicated to the history of the Five Civilized Tribes.

The building was originally built by the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs to house the superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes.

According to the museum's website: www.fivetribes.org, the building was in a distressed state after World War II and was revived by a Native American women's organization, the Da-Co-Tah Club.

The Five Civilized Tribes Museum has been open since April 26, 1966.

The museum features art, history and culture from the Muscogee (Creek), Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw and Seminole Nations.

The museum is open Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. and closed on Sunday. The museum is also closed the entire month of January.

The price of admission is $3 for adults, $2 for seniors and $1.50 for students.

The archival room displays items unique to each tribe and describes the removal of the Five Civilized Tribes to Indian Territory in what is now the state of Oklahoma.

In the gallery, the museum is displaying award-winning pieces from the Masters Art Show until July 19.

The museum will be displaying a travelling exhibit June 2015-July 2015 by the Smithsonian Institution named Hometown Teams.

"It's a reflection of how sports are involved in our everyday life, whether you're an athlete or not," Museum Executive Director Mary Robinson said. "We're also working on having Native games played right here on the grounds during the weekend."

Robinson believes that it is important to distinguish artwork and culture unique to the Five Civilized Tribes from tribes that hail from other regions.

"These artists are the Southeast artists. They're the woodland artists," Robinson said. "They need their own identity and so many times because they are grouped in with the other artists; they don't have an opportunity to truly express their ancestors through the Southeast style of art."

Robinson said that she wants the museum to be seen as a hub detailing the history, stories and traditions of the Five Civilized Tribes from removal to statehood and beyond.

"It's important to note all of the contributions that the Five Tribes have made to create this great state of Oklahoma and how the pride and traditions continue in Oklahoma," Robinson said.

For more information about the Five Civilized Tribes Museum call: 918-683-1701 or visit: www.fivetribes.org.

State of Oklahoma launches new Indian education website



Screen shot
The new Oklahoma Indian Education Resource website.

Educators provided with online resource for cultural accuracy

Gary Fife*/Radio Specialist*

OKLAHOMA CITY — Oklahoma has a new online resource for information on the 39 tribes located in the state.

State Superintendent of Education Janet Barresi launched the new resource guide July 11 on the cultures and history of the states' tribes saying, "It is aimed at both honoring and strengthening Oklahoma American Indian education."

Located on the state education website at: ok.gov/sde/oier, the guide provides teachers with a cultural resource as they prepare lesson plans.

"In many respects, the story of American Indian tribes. The impact of Indian culture on Oklahoma is deep and enduring," Barresi said. "It is critical for all Oklahomans, particularly the youngest and future generations, to understand and appreciate the traditions and legacies of our Indian tribes and the rich history that they lend to our state."

The website contains historical and cultural materials ranging from traditional cultures and societies to Native American contemporary arts and the Native American Code Talkers of both World Wars. It is designed to provide teachers a wide spectrum of lesson plans appropriate for all grade levels and to be used in all subjects including math, language arts and science.

Dwight Pickering, State Director of the Office of Indian Education said the new website will be, "an ongoing repository that will change as history changes along with additional information that is brought forward by our tribes."

He added that a large number of Indian educators worked with state education staff to develop the website. Among those was the Oklahoma Advisory Council on Indian Education.

Lucyann Harjo is Director of Indian Education for the Norman Public Schools. She gave credit to a number of contributors who provided materials and guidance to the development of the new Indian resource website and added that many teachers, tribes, tribal educators and academic sources contributed to make the site accurate and thorough.

Harjo gave special thanks to the College of the Muscogee Nation for hosting and assisting with the planning meetings. She pointed out one of the websites' topics available from the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

"Now I know that the Muscogee (Creek) Nation has a 'Muscogee Nation Reads' program. Excellent, excellent resource for our teachers. It's one of those hopeful links that we have on that website for teachers to access.

"How powerful would that be to share the Mvskoke language in the story told by an elder or a storyteller in Creek, but they also have a translation going on at the same time and it's written in Creek," Harjo said.

Resources contained on the site conform to Oklahoma Academic Standards for Social Studies.

Harjo explained that although the site is currently focused on social studies, there are plans to add teacher resources for language arts, English, math and science. She said that teachers have expressed interest in more resources regarding the 1889 Oklahoma Land Run to balance their presentations on the subject.

When Superintendent Barresi assumed her post, one of the initiatives she wanted to accomplish was the addition of more materials on Oklahoma tribes. Its future effectiveness, she said, depended on making state educators aware of the resource.

"So for me, that's kind of the next step in terms of the website," Barresi said. "Getting that information out there; getting teachers oriented to it and we know that doesn't just happen one way. We know we have to have multiple ways of communicating that out."

Muscogee (Creek) artist merges culture with modern edge



MNN/Chelsie Rich
Muscogee (Creek) artist Steven Grounds presented his artwork of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Council House to MCN Principal Chief George Tiger June 27 during the 2014 MCN Festival Council House Art and Food Market.

Grounds uses art to encourage others

Jessica McBride*/Editorial Assistant*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) artist Steven Grounds describes the creative process as "exponential."

"I don't know where ideas come from somehow. They just manifest, you know; and all of a sudden I get on a roll and I have a bunch of ideas and it just starts pouring out of me," Grounds said.

Grounds grew up in Stillwater, Okla. He describes sports as his first love but he always had a knack for art.

"I wasn't around the art crowd per se; I just did art naturally," Grounds said.

He attributes his work ethic to his passion for sports.

"There's no one sitting there telling me, you know; you have to create art. It comes from my own desire that I probably learned over the years," Grounds said.

Grounds holds a bachelor's degree in American Indian studies from Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kan.

Grounds designed the 2011 and 2012 Tulsa Oktoberfest posters. He was also the featured artist for the Council House Art and Food Market that took place during the 2014 MCN Festival June 27-28.

His artwork of the MCN Council House was presented to MCN Principal Chief George Tiger during the Festival and displayed in the new layout concept for the 'Muscogee Nation News.'

"I kind of wanted to do something that was a modern take but still, you know; keep the integrity of what this place stands for," Grounds said.

Grounds said that much of his artwork blends his culture as he views it through a modern lens to present something that he believes has not been seen before.

"I think that kind of sums up the whole objective of what I'm trying to do with my artwork in general with my art project Native Evolution," Grounds said.

Grounds strives to create an understanding of what Native American culture and heritage means in today's society. His culture has shaped his thoughts, perceptions and even how he views himself and describes art as being a gateway and an awakening process to discovering who he is.

"I think that's a lot of what's really good about art, is it can open things up without actually over intellectualizing it," Grounds said.

The path to a career in art was not easy for Grounds. While studying at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Okla., he felt discouraged in his pursuit.

"I think everybody at some point in their life is going to run into that situation and I think that's when you have to have the belief in yourself that it doesn't really matter what so-and-so thinks," Grounds said. "All that matters is if you believe in yourself and that you do have this dream that you really want to pursue and just do it for the purity of that."



"ALL THAT MATTERS IS IF YOU BELIEVE IN YOURSELF AND THAT YOU DO HAVE THIS DREAM THAT YOU REALLY WANT TO PURSUE AND JUST DO IT FOR THE PURITY OF THAT."

- MUSCOGEE (CREEK) ARTIST STEVEN GROUNDS

Grounds believes that inner strength and resolute self-esteem are important in today's fast-paced technological world. He said that Native communities should uplift and support each other in their endeavors.

Grounds hopes his artwork takes a "pay it forward" direction, and inspire communities.

"It's more about giving back… maybe eventually it will cause more positive energy within our communities," Grounds said.

He describes himself as balanced and eager to obtain ambitious dreams but striving to maintain humility.

"It's about self expression; you know, and legacy. Having something that will carry on; you know, and people can look back and remember," Grounds said.

To view or purchase artwork by Steven Grounds visit: www.native-evolution.com.

Citizen wins the title of Miss Indian Oklahoma



Submission
Muscogee (Creek) citizen Jordan Harmon was crowned the 2014-2015 Miss Indian Oklahoma May 3 at the Chickasaw Cultural Center in Sulphur, Okla.

Harmon advocates for education

Chelsie Rich/*Project Specialist*

TULSA, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Jordan Harmon was crowned the 2014-2015 Miss Indian Oklahoma May 3 at the Chickasaw Cultural Center in Sulphur, Okla.

"I decided to run for Miss Indian Oklahoma for my last princess go around," Jordan said.

Jordan has held the titles of Tulsa Powwow Princess 2010-2011 and Miss American Indian Oklahoma State University 2011-2012.

"With my past titles, I have gained confidence and speaking… one of the things that I would like to gain now with my future is networking opportunities." Jordan said.

The Oklahoma Federation of Indian Women started the pageant in 1972 and it has grown since then.

The pageant not only stresses the beauty of American Indian women but also the scholastic, cultural traditions and current issues they face.

"I'm really grateful to be Miss Indian Oklahoma," Jordan said.

Harmon graduated from OSU a week after she was crowned Miss Indian Oklahoma.

"My parents are the ones who made me seek out my education," Jordan said.

Jordan earned a bachelor's degree in political science with a double minor in American Indian studies and Spanish.

"My experiences have proven to me that the most effective and most fulfilling tools of empowerment is education. I have faith that Jordan's personal and educational goals and pursuits will provide an example for other youth who come from the creek community," said Jordan's mother, Shonday Harmon.

On top of her royalty title while at OSU, Jordan was also an officer in the Native American Student Association for four years much like her mother; who is a former NASA president and former Miss Indian OSU.

Jordan was selected by the Washington Internship for Native Students in the summer of 2012 to intern with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Division of Communications.

Jordan also interned with Legal Advocates for Indian Country LLP where she experienced the daily life of an Indian Country attorney and worked closely with tribal judges and administrators.

"My experience with the attorneys and legislators there inspired me," Jordan said.

Jordan has been accepted into the University of Tulsa College of Law and will begin classes in the fall.

"I hope to practice Indian Law… and I'm really interested in environmental law and water law," Jordan said.

Jordan's mother is the program director for the Master of Jurisprudence in Indian Law and Energy Law Program at TU.

"I am ecstatic that Jordan will be attending law school this fall… and I am, of course excited that she will be close to home," Shonday said. "Jordan has some wonderful experiences leading up to law school."

As a student, Jordan decided to make her royalty platform to be about education.

"I think education is the greatest avenue for Native people right now. There's such great access to education now than there ever was before," Jordan said. "So I'm always advocating for my platform for education."

"I'm really grateful to be Miss Indian Oklahoma."

- Muscogee (Creek) citizen Jordan Harmon

Jordan is a two-time recipient of the Muscogee (Creek) Women's Leadership Award.

Apart from being a student and Miss Indian Oklahoma, Jordan enjoys being outside, camping and being near the water; whether it is a river, lake or at the beach.

Jordan is 22-years-old, from Tulsa, Okla., and is a member of the Deer Clan and Koweta Tribal Town.

Jordan is the daughter of Shonday and David Harmon and granddaughter of Lester Randall, Jr. and the late Okema Boudinot Randall as well as Richard Harmon and Nancy Harmon.

MCN SSA educates about My Social Security account

Media Release

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Social Security Assistance Program is available to assist our citizens in understanding and applying for social security benefits. Our staff will be providing information each month to help our citizens stay informed with the ever-changing programs that the Social Security Administration offers.

The 'My Social Security' account is a personalized online account that people can use beginning in their working years and continuing throughout the time they receive Social Security benefits. More than 60 million Social Security beneficiaries and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients can now access their benefit verification letter, payment history and earnings record instantly using their online account. Social Security beneficiaries also can change their address and start or change direct deposit information online.



Social Security beneficiaries and SSI recipients with a 'My Social Security' account can go online and get an official benefit verification letter instantly. The benefit verification letter serves as proof of income to secure loans, mortgages and other housing, and state or local benefits. Additionally, people use the letter to prove current Medicare health insurance coverage, retirement or disability status and age. People can print or save a customized letter.

Social Security processed nearly nine million requests for benefit verification letters in the past year. This new online service allows people to conduct business with Social Security without having to visit an office or make a phone call, and very often, wait for a letter to arrive in the mail. Due to budget restraints, the Social Security Administration will stop providing this service effective October 2014.

People ages 18 and older can sign up for an account at: www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount. Once there, they must provide information about themselves and answers to questions that only they are likely to know. After completing the secure verification process, people can create a 'My Social Security' account with a unique user name and password to access their information.

People ages 18 and older who are not receiving benefits can sign up for a 'My Social Security' account to get a personalized online Social Security Statement. The online Statement provides eligible workers with secure and convenient access to their Social Security earnings and benefit information and estimates of future benefits they can use to plan for their retirement. In addition, the portal also includes links to information about other online services, such as applications for retirement, disability and Medicare.

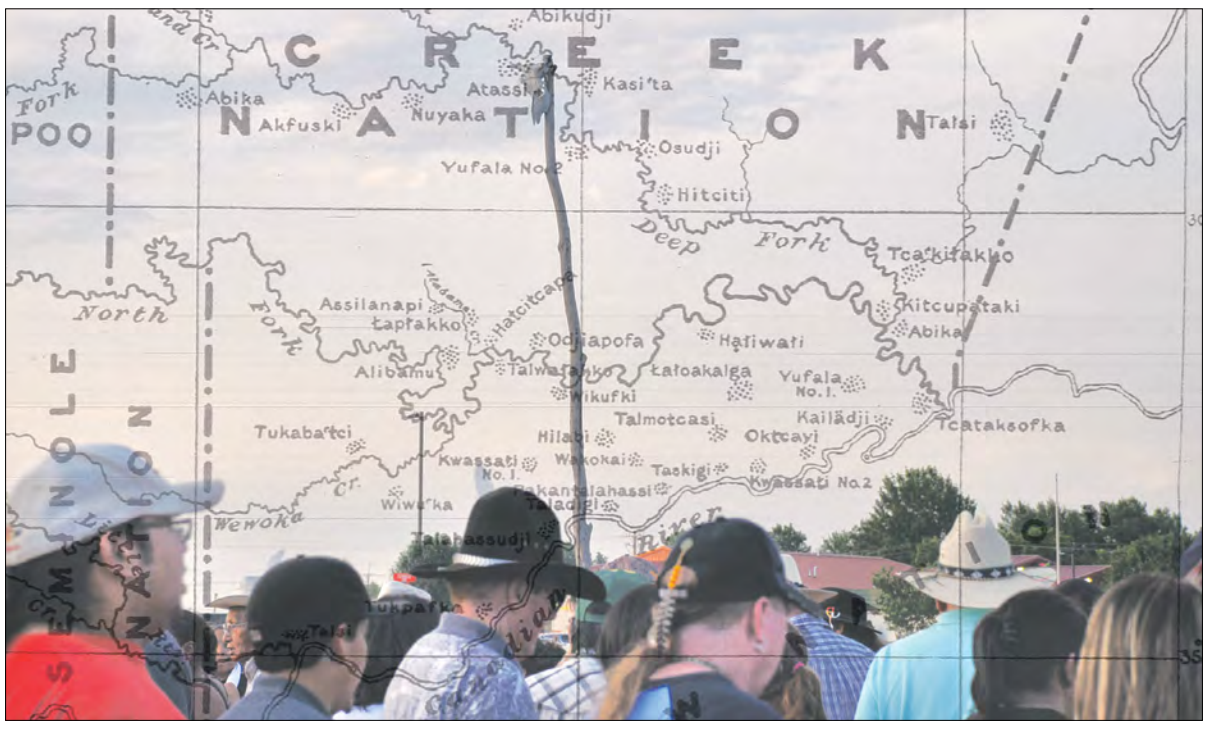
For assistance in signing up for an account, please call the MCN Social Security Assistance Program at: 918-549-2479 or visit us at the MCN Tribal Complex in the Solomon McCombs Building.

If you have a Social Security question that you would like to have answered in this column, you may submit the question using: 1) fax: 918-549-2427 2) phone: 918-549-2479 3) email: lfarris@mcn-nsn.gov or 4) by regular mail: Muscogee (Creek) Nation, SSAP, PO Box 580; Okmulgee, OK 74447.

The question and answer will appear in our next column.



A world apart: ceremonial grounds and tribal government



MNN/Amanda Rutland

A map, courtesy of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Cultural Preservation Department entitled 'The Creek Indians of Taskigi Town' by Frank G. Speck.

Traditional law in modern tribal government

Amanda Rutland/*Media Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court held the 12th annual Continuing Legal Education seminar May 15-16, at the River Spirit Event Center in Tulsa. A portion of the seminar focused on the role of ceremonial law in modern tribal courts.

"When you start talking about how you conduct yourself; how you operate; how to treat each other and what consequences are for violations of certain obligations; all you are talking about is the structure of your society. And that if anything, is what laws are meant to do," Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court Judge and member of Kellyville Ceremonial Ground Gregory Bigler said.

According to MCN Cultural Center and Archives Department Interim Director Justin Giles, the adoption of European ways began after the Revolutionary War.

"When you get into the American Revolution, that is where the traditional system started breaking down," Giles said.

Before European contact, Muscogee (Creek) people lived in autonomous etvlwvs and the ceremonial ground was an integrated part of the town. The mekkos of the etvlwvs and the ceremonial leaders were one in the same with an occasional exception.

Each town had a council, which acted as advisors to the mekko. According to MCN Cultural Preservation Traditional Cultural Specialist David Proctor, the etvlwvs would also meet in a larger council.

"There was probably two or three different towns that people gathered at with the Upper and Lower Creeks. I think one of them was Tukvpvtce, and they would meet annually or semi annually," Proctor said.

Tukvpvtce was one of the four mother towns of the confederacy. The Lower Creeks lived closer to the white settlements. This affected them politically, religiously and socially. Some took up Christianity and built log cabins for housing.

White settlement spread in to Muscogee (Creek) territory. The treaties of Washington and Indian Springs pushed Mvskokvlke out of Georgia and crowded the towns into Alabama.

During the Muskogean Symposium in March, Dr. Steven Hahn of the University of Georgia said that between 1663-1673, whites and Mvskokvlke made six different agreements, five of which dealt with land.

Illegal settlement of territory continued in Alabama. Fellow Muskogean Symposium speaker, Assistant Professor of History at the University of West Alabama Chris Haveman explained how extensive the illegal settlement by whites was.

"We have white encroachment like crazy, 400 whisky shops by 1833. Twenty-five thousand whites living in the Creek Nation," Haveman said. "You could make the argument that there were more whites in 1831-1832 than there were Creek people."

According to Hahn, this settlement caused some push for unity.

"All these colonial pressures to take land accelerate at that time (post Revolutionary War)," Hahn said. "There were attempts to create a more centralized Creek government."

Havemen explained that the 1832 Treaty of Washington caused further breakdown of Muscogee (Creek) government. It took away the ability of the Council to have any political say within Alabama and surrounding states, which combined with this treaty, eventually lead to Removal.

"The Creek headmen will meet in Council, but it is mostly to tend to internal affairs," Haveman said.

Bigler said that there was a judicial system to persecute citizens breaking traditional laws as early as 1817.

"Before the creation of the 1867 constitution for the Creek Nation, we had laws and systems of government, trials and everything else; but they didn't look anything like what you would see in American jurisprudence or Anglo American law," Bigler said.

Little is known about traditional law. Laws were essentially common law and would be likened to unspoken law in today's court. Unspoken law is dictated by social and behavioral norms.

Some of the laws of the ceremonial side of the town dictated how one should conduct themselves in life. Proctor said the mekko saw to the spiritual and emotional well-being and the health of his people.

"There is a foundation of the ground that you have to be and act a certain way and if you don't follow that, there is consequences," Proctor said.

An example of this comes from Alabama-Quassarte Ceremonial Ground Mekko Robert Yargee.

"We care for one another; that is who we are," Yargee said. "I, as a mekko, have to have a clean heart and not have any bad feelings toward anybody."

Chilly McIntosh recorded the first written copy of the laws in 1825.

After Removal to Indian Territory, the Lower Creeks settle Arkansas and Verdigris Rivers and the Upper Creeks by the Canadian River. Towns from Alabama and Georgia were reestablished in these areas, along with self-governance. The towns continued to send representatives to the Council.

In 1867, a constitution was drafted. It outlined leaders over all, the principal chief and the second chief. It included two legislative houses, the House of Kings and the House of Warriors and detailed how representatives would be chosen. Finally, it established a judicial branch and it set forth punishments for crimes.

This could be deemed significant because it established overall the towns, not just one town. Previously, the mekko led the etvlwv, governmental and ceremonial.

With the Dawes allotments, lands were given to individuals and the communal land occupied by the town did not exist.

Bigler said that from statehood until 1968 with the Indian Rights Act, the Nation could not self-govern or exercise sovereignty. The MCN Constitution was redrafted in 1979 and the courts were opened in 1982.

"Ever since the constitution was ratified and everything, it kind of took the power away from the separate towns and out into a council. So, now we really don't have as big of a voice as we had in the past," Proctor said. "We don't send representatives to Council meetings. We don't have a seat on the Council."

Proctor gave his opinion about this occurrence.

"Each ground is a separate ground," Proctor said. "We may come together during a meeting to discuss an issue and agree on something. But as far as making a decision for everybody, we don't or shouldn't do that."

Etvlwvs, which once encompassed every facet of life, evolved when the towns broke away from individual governance and merged the confederacy into one nation over the course of many decades.

The ceremonial grounds are one of the last holds on a time before Europeans came to the Americas. Ceremonial ground members are considered the keepers of tradition or the old way.

Ceremonial leader Mekko George Thompson was recently appointed as an MCN Supreme Court justice; providing a traditional voice in the modern tribal court.

"I know he is thinking about our people when he did take this opportunity to be a judge, to look after our people," Mekko Yargee said.

McCombs family holds centennial family reunion



Submission

The McCombs family during the first reunion Nov. 25, 1914 at the home of William and Alice McCombs in Eufaula, Okla.

Family member carries on tradition

Amanda Rutland/*Media Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Imagine an autumn day at one of the oldest Muscogee (Creek) churches filled with preaching and Mvskoke hymns as well as family and friends visiting over a large dinner complete with safke and blue dumplings.

The children play on the big rock outside the door of Tuskegee Indian Baptist Church. To a child, the rock seems to tower over him but to an adult; it is only a couple of feet tall.

These are the memories of William "Bud" McCombs, the great-grandson of Muscogee (Creek) citizen Rev. William McCombs. Bud McCombs, now retired, helps organize the annual McCombs family reunion.

July 5 marked the 100th annual McCombs family reunion held at the Eufaula Community Center in Eufaula, Okla. The tradition started Thanksgiving Day 1914 by family patriarch Rev. William McCombs.

William McCombs, born July 22, 1844, was a prominent member of Muscogee (Creek) society. He was a minister for 61 years. He served in the MCN House of Warriors, on the MCN Supreme Court, as superintendent of public instruction and as an interpreter for a combined total of 34 years.

Bud McCombs spends his free time researching his genealogy. He said one of the staples of the reunion is sharing the McCombs history.

"My family always asks me to tell the story of how the McCombs got here. William and David were sons of Samuel and Susan Stinson McCombs. Samuel was a dragoon with the Tennessee Military that escorted some of the removal parties out to the Fort Gibson area," Bud McCombs said. "Susan had actually came before him. She was, from the documents we can find, half Creek/half Cherokee."

Bud McCombs explained that William McCombs was one of nine children. However, he only has information about four children. He calls the other five siblings 'the lost children' and speculates that they might have enrolled as Cherokee citizens instead.

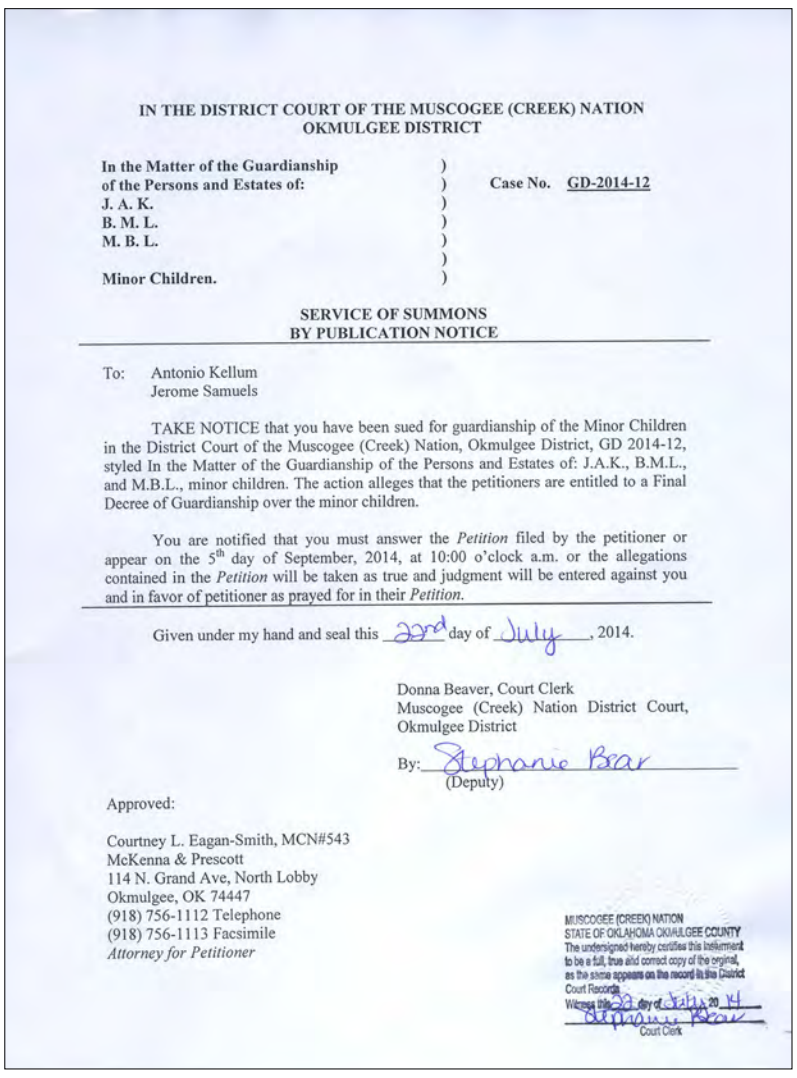
In addition to sharing the family history, Bud also goes through the lineage, starting with Samuel and Susan McCombs and ends with the youngest attendees who are great-great-great-grandchildren.

The McCombs family has grown so large that some branches hold a separate reunion. It is not uncommon for reunion attendees to be family that Bud McCombs has not met before.

"Somebody will find us and say, 'I am supposed to be kin to Solomon,' or, 'I heard I was kin to the reverend,' " Bud McCombs said.

According to Bud, it was William McCombs' wish that his children continue the event.

Bud said there will be another reunion next year and he hopes more will attend.



IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

In the Matter of the Guardianship of the Persons and Estates of:
J. A. K.
B. M. L.
M. B. L.
Minor Children.

Case No. GD-2014-12

SERVICE OF SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION NOTICE

To: Antonio Kellum
Jerome Samuels

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued for guardianship of the Minor Children in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, GD 2014-12, styled In the Matter of the Guardianship of the Persons and Estates of: J.A.K., B.M.L., and M.B.L., minor children. The action alleges that the petitioners are entitled to a Final Decree of Guardianship over the minor children.

You are notified that you must answer the *Petition* filed by the petitioner or appear on the 5th day of September, 2014, at 10:00 o'clock a.m. or the allegations contained in the *Petition* will be taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of petitioner as prayed for in their *Petition*.

Given under my hand and seal this 23rd day of July, 2014.

Donna Beaver, Court Clerk
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court,
Okmulgee District

By: Stephanie Bear
(Deputy)

Approved:

Courtney L. Eagan-Smith, MCN#543
McKenna & Prescott
114 N. Grand Ave, North Lobby
Okmulgee, OK 74447
(918) 756-1112 Telephone
(918) 756-1113 Facsimile
Attorney for Petitioner

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
STATE OF OKLAHOMA OKMULGEE COUNTY
The undersigned hereby certifies this instrument to be a full, true and correct copy of the orginal, as the same appears on the record in the District Court Records.
Witness this 23 day of July 20 14
Stephanie Bear
Court Clerk

Elder scams exploit traditional sensibilities

Experts discuss scam types, prevention

Sterling Cosper*MNN Editor*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Many of us have received an email from someone in Nigeria or somewhere else abroad asking for financial assistance in order to claim a large fortune with the promise that our money will be returned along with a share of the fortune once it is obtained.

While many in more recent generations are able to recognize such correspondences as scams, there is a particular demographic who are more susceptible to these ploys.

"Scams are increasing when it comes to the elders," said Muscogee (Creek) Nation Senior Services Manager Dave Dunson.

The 'Merriam-Webster Dictionary' defines a scam as, "a dishonest way to make money by deceiving people."

KOTV Tulsa Crime Reporter Lori Fullbright, who has over 22 years of experience interviewing law enforcement, victims and criminals, gave insight into this trend while talking about her own personal battle with elder scams.

"It is hard because my mom is from that generation where she listens and trusts everybody," Fullbright said.

Dunson and Fullbright gave the same general advice to avoid becoming a victim.

"If something sounds too good to be true, it probably is. There is no free money out there," Dunson said.

Fullbright shared another telltale sign.

"Be very skeptical of phone calls, letters and emails from people you don't know. If anybody says that you've won a prize or won money, if they want one single penny from you to collect that prize; it's a scam," Fullbright said.

One particular racket specific to elders known as the 'grandparent scam' involves someone pretending to be the relative of a senior citizen.

"They ask them for money because they say they have a rent problem or some kind of financial concern," Dunson said.

Fullbright warned that this scam can be particularly convincing.

"People tell me, 'they sounded just like my grandson or granddaughter.' And they also know the name of the grandson but you can white page someone and they can tell you some names associated," Fullbright said.

According to Fullbright, the Publishers Clearing House scam has been common in Oklahoma lately.

"This is when they call and say you've won the Publishers Clearing House, but of course, they need money to collect it," Fullbright said.

The bank examiners scam involves someone posing as law enforcement who asks prospective victims to withdraw all of their money from the bank and turn it over for investigation because their teller is suspected of stealing.

"I had a woman lose $88,000 to this scam because she thought the Tulsa police called and asked her to withdraw all of her money and have them count it and then arrest the teller," Fullbright said. "No government agency will ever use your money for an investigation."

Some scams are more commonly done in person.

"The home repair scam is an ongoing thing where people approach you," Fullbright said. "They want to pave your driveway, redo your roof or put siding on your house. They charge you way too much money and don't do the work or a tenth of the work that was promised."

Dunson described a con specific to Native Americans where scammers knew that their prospects had land and mineral rights.

"There was a letter that was going out that included a check and it gave them their land description…and it said, 'endorse this check; take it to the bank; this money is yours.' They didn't realize that they were signing over their land to a scam artist," Dunson said.

Dunson's office began receiving these letters and sent copies of the checks to the MCN Attorney General's Office.

He advised Muscogee (Creek) citizens who think they are being scammed or are victims of a scam to contact the MCN Lighthorse Police Department who will refer the complaint to the Attorney General's Office.

"The attorney general has a fraud control unit with the State of Oklahoma as well," Dunson said.

Many who become a victim are reluctant to report it however.

"Usually, it's an embarrassment once they figure out that they've been scammed," Dunson said.

Whether a suspected scam involves an approach that is in person, over the phone or through the mail or email, Fullbright advises prospective victims not to engage.

"On the phone, just hang up and don't engage them in conversation," Fullbright said. "A lot of these people on the phone are just trying to get you to say the word 'yes.' They record that and edit later to claim in court that, 'this person did approve me taking out $200 a month out of their account. Look, I have it on tape of them saying yes.' "

Fullbright said that it is difficult for many elders to follow this advice because they are not comfortable being rude to someone. Furthermore, scammers have become increasingly aggressive as a means to combat this approach.

"I think persistence no longer works and now they are being overtly aggressive," Fullbright said. "That scares a lot of people and they just give them their account number."

Fullbright believes education and awareness are the best deterrents.

"What would you do mom and dad if somebody called and says, 'your grandson has been arrested.' Run through the 'what if' scenarios," Fullbright said.

To report a scam or to view and learn about the most recent trends, Fullbright recommended visiting: www.ftc.gov.

"The only thing that is going to stop these scammers is when we stop falling for it," Fullbright said.

Health Department warns about tick-borne illnesses



Shutterstock

Health officials warn against tick-borne illnesses during summer activities.

Parasite cause for concern among summertime activities

Gary Fife*Radio Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — With summertime activities comes all the problems brought on by insects that usually accompany the warm weather.

Among these pests are ticks—blood sucking arachnids that plague people and pets.

The insects hide in armpits or folds of skin on people, drawing their meal, but they can also carry diseases such as Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever. The National Center for Disease Control and Prevention lists other diseases familiar in Oklahoma such as Erlichiosis and Tularemia.

Lyme Disease is a common illness spread by ticks in northern states.

But among those afflictions is a more rare one called the Heartland Virus and it is responsible for the death of an eastern Oklahoma man this year, heightening the need for people to protect themselves from ticks.

According to the CDC, 10 cases of the disease have been reported and no known drug or vaccine has been available to fight it. Eight of the other people affected by the Heartland Virus did recover.

Becky Coffman, an epidemiologist with the Oklahoma Department of Health said the Heartland Virus has been mostly unknown until recently.

'It's something we're learning about since 2009 when it was first identified in Missouri. Right now, there is a special study through the Center for Disease Control, when people have tested negative for the other tick borne illnesses that are common in our region. The Oklahoma patient was the 10th person that was confirmed to have this in the United States so far."

This virus is still rare in this state; but Coffman said many of the symptoms are similar and they are felt quickly.

"It's a fairly quick on-set of fever which we mean over 100.4 degrees, usually a headache, body ache, muscle ache, extremely fatigued. You may have other symptoms including confusion, loss of appetite, nausea, even diarrhea.

"For the most part, it's what we call 'febrile' in other words, involving a fever, a fairly quick occurrence. In other words, not slowly creeping up over several days—that you're doing fairly OK and then in a matter of a few hours, all of a sudden; you're really ill," Coffman said.

If these symptoms occur after any tick bites, the OSDH said it is important to get checked out by a doctor.

"If you find a tick, make a note of the day when that was and then, if you develop these symptoms within a couple of weeks; contact your physician. Tell him you had this tick that was attached to you and they're probably going to do some lab tests and/or go ahead and start you on anti-biotics," Coffman said.

It was a Lone Star Tick that was involved in the death of the Oklahoma man. He is still unidentified but sources say he was over the age of 65 and spent a lot of time outdoors. This has been true of the other people who have fallen ill with Heartland.

To guard against this and other tick borne illnesses, Coffman suggested the use insect repellent containing DEET or oil of lemon-eucalyptus in a repellent called IR-35-35, wearing long sleeves and pants along with closed-toed shoes, staying out of grassy and wooded areas and checking for ticks when coming in from the outdoors.

"It is not good to put a match or nail polish remover or anything like that on the tick."

- OSDH Epidemiologist Becky Coffman

A search for ticks should include the waistband of pants, the armpits, groin and around the ankles. A family member or friend could assist in checking a person for ticks.

Coffman said that when ticks are found they should be carefully removed.

"It is not good to put a match or nail polish remover or anything like that on the tick," Coffman said. "Because what that will do is make the tick go ahead and release the bacteria into your system."

She warned against the old 'folklore' methods.

"What we want you to do is use tweezers. Get as close to your skin with the tweezers as you can, so you're going to pull in the direction that the tick's angled into your body. Then, don't smash the tick with your fingers because the bacteria in the tick can get into any little breaks in your skin and your fingers," Coffman said.

Coffman suggested a thorough cleansing of the hands after removing a tick.

According to Coffman, awareness is the best protection against ticks and the illnesses they carry.

"I think the most important thing is be aware that ticks can spread illness. Protect yourself from ticks and check yourself for ticks when you come back inside everyday."

For more information about tick-borne illnesses visit the OSDH website at: www.health.ok.gov.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health Acting Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Lawrence Vark said that Muscogee (Creek) country has not seen the Heartland Virus.

"No, we have not, however, with regard to tick-borne illness that is something that our physicians are aware of. It occurs every spring and summer and we are quite vigilant about keeping a high index of suspicion with regards to patients who come in with those particular symptoms."

However, Vark said physicians have seen occurrences of the other tick-borne illnesses common to the area including Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever.

"That certainly is the one that causes the most concern because it generally has the most immediate and probably is the cause of most of the fatalities you going to have with a tick-borne illness."

Vark said that citizens who frequent the outdoors are at greater risk for tick-borne illnesses but cautioned that city dwellers can be affected as well.

"I get ticks in Tulsa and I live there," Vark said. But, certainly they seem to occur with a much higher prevalence in the more rural areas."

Vark listed Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever symptoms that people should be aware of including: fever, muscle and joint aches, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain and neurological symptoms from mild confusion to full blown delirium.

"A significant number of patients that come in to us, wind up having Spotted Fever, never really relay a history of a tick bite. I tell my patients, if its summertime and you feel like you have a really bad case of the flu and certainly if you develop any type of a rash; then you need to get in and see me," Vark said.

Vark advocated quick action to reduce the possibility of contracting diseases.

"With your kids, it's basically check them from head to toe," Vark said. "All the studies have shown that the longer that the tick remains attached to your body—the greater the risk of contracting some type of tick-borne illness and that risk seems to diminish significantly if you can get those ticks off within six hours of the time of their attachment."

Vark concluded that anyone with any questions about tick-borne diseases should contact any of the MCN clinics for assistance or more information.

The main number for MCNDH is: 918-756-4333.

DeLaune's Corner: Breaking the language barrier



"Sign the letter 'D' and place it over your heart and that is my name."

— Darren DeLaune

Airplanes, curiosity, barriers and sign language

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A few weeks ago, I had another opportunity to attend training at one of my favorite schools, Poynter Institute. It was a week-long event that was strenuous but very informative. While I enjoyed the training and everything involved with the state of Florida, it was the flight back home that I enjoyed the most.

It was a Saturday morning when my co-worker, Kyla McKown and I were boarding a plane. Our first stop was Dallas, and then we headed on to Tulsa, Okla. The flight was going to be full and we both expected that from the multitude of people waiting in line to get on the plane.

On a plane that is packed, you never know who is going to be sitting by you. That scares me sometimes, especially on long flights. I can only listen to my music and read a book for so long. I like to talk and have a conversation. Even with strangers, it helps the time pass.

On this flight, I was going to be able to have a conversation but not one that I was use to. My neighbors for the two-hour flight were named Lori and Kendall. They were flying to Texas for their vacation.

Both Lori and Kendall strolled up to our aisle to where they would be sitting at. There was still a long line behind them; so in order to help them get to their seats as quick as possible, I helped them put their luggage in the carry-on compartments above our heads. I got a big thank you when we all sat down and put our seat belts on. It was then that my curiosity took over.

As soon as I looked over and saw their hands moving I realized what was going on. One of my favorite languages was happening in front of me, sign language.

I found out that Kendall is 17-years-old, deaf and has been since birth. Lori, her mother, explained what she had to do to learn this incredible language. She had no choice. She needed to learn to help her daughter.

I wanted to ask Kendall questions and communicate through Lori. Lori would not let me. Lori told me that in order to be able to talk to Kendall, I had to do something that I always wanted to do but never made the effort to try.

I had to learn the alphabet and count in sign language. Lori handed me a book and said that when I was ready, Kendall would test me.

A scary thought but like always, I was up for the challenge. When you are learning something new, you want it to be perfect and I was no different. Especially since my young instructor's only language, is sign language.

So I devoted my time on the two-hour toward learning how to sign.

I periodically asked Lori if I did a sign a certain way and she would answer or ask Kendall. Then I started to notice some people near us looking at me holding a book with my left hand and signing with my right. I would look at them and smile. They would smile back and nod their head in approval.

Finally, I was done and ready for Kendall's test. Butterflies in my stomach were going crazy.

I am glad to say that I passed with flying colors. It was an amazing moment. To some people, it is just the ABCs and the numbers 0-10, but for me it is a step towards learning another language.

For the rest of the flight, I was able to communicate with Kendall through Lori.

It took some time to learn but I am glad I did. I am glad Lori had me do that in order to ask Kendall anything. It was a barrier; a language barrier but it was a barrier that I could overcome.

It was great because I was able to learn something new. I told them both thank you for teaching me. Kendall thanked me for learning.

She told me through signing and her mother interpreting, that a lot of people do not want to learn because it is hard. That is what I thought too. It is tough to learn. In a way, I still think it is tough but I have a better understanding of sign language. Lori and Kendall had to learn in order to communicate. I want to learn to better myself and learn another language.

After that, I talked to Lori and she told me what I could do to get better at sign language. I asked all the questions in the world and like that, we heard the captain say, 'put your seatbelts back on and prepare for landing.' You would not believe this but I wish we could have stayed in the air for another hour. There was so much more I wanted to learn and ask.

This was my barrier. It still is my barrier but I finally got a better understanding of this language and now I want to learn how to become an interpreter. This barrier is one that I will not be able to beat or overcome but it will be one that I will get better and better at as time goes on.

Before we parted ways, I was able to take a picture of my two new friends. The greatest thing was Kendall giving me my sign name. Only a person who is completely deaf can do that. Sign the letter 'D' and place it over your heart and that is my name.

She said it was because my heart is big and for taking this opportunity to try and learn something new and to not be afraid. I do not think it was only my heart; it was their hearts too for opening up and showing me something that I was afraid to try and thought I would have never learned.

Here it is, quote time.

"If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his language, that goes to his heart." – Nelson Mandela

Eventually, we parted ways and that was tough for me. Who knew that a two-hour flight could have such an impact on someone as it did me?

I hope to see Lori and Kendall again. When I do, my wish is that for one conversation, it will be in nothing but sign language. That is my hope and more importantly, my barrier to overcome.



Meeting the ocean: A first experience



MNN/Amanda Rutland

Uncovering mystery of the ocean, leaves mystery for next day

Amanda Rutland/*Media Specialist*

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — As a child, my family never traveled anywhere for vacations or holidays. I had never seen the ocean.

Recently, I traveled to St. Petersburg, which is on the Gulf of Mexico side of Florida. Some people may argue that the gulf and the ocean are different. In my mind, saltwater is saltwater.

I marveled at the different plants and trees as I strolled toward the beach. The tall palm trees towered over me. Waxy leaves of vivid green radiated in the sunlight.

I watched two white birds peck around the base of a tree. At first, I thought they were ducks, but



their beaks were too pointed. They did not really look like gulls either, which led me to wonder if dodo birds still exist.

Homes gave way to high-end clothing stores selling resort wear, restaurants with outdoor dining and expensive prices and knick-knack shops catering to tourists seeking beach lifestyle items.

I could see the calming waves of blue from Ocean Drive, but it was not the beach.

I approached the marina. I am charmed by the ships bobbing in the water like blown up versions of children's toys. No beach here.

I entered a park shaded by tall fruitless palms. I settled on a bench facing the water and let my surroundings soak in. I heard the hum of small single engine planes, and the dull roar of the waves. Heavy gusts pushed sounds of doves cooing to my ears and chased away the dense muggy air.

I watched large black pelicans glide through the air. Suddenly, the bird angled its wings into a stiff 'W' to free-fall into the saltwater with the intensity of a pilot in a dogfight. The pelican plunged into the sea where it was swallowed by a large splash and then quietly resurfaced.

Gulls drifted above me. They rapidly closed the gap between us, but pulled up just before they smacked into me. I did not want an in-your-face nature experience.

The park was full of squirrels. They too had no concept of personal space. I was starting to get paranoid about these animals.

No beach here.

I kept a steady pace, but I am continuously, passed by runners and bicyclist. I felt like the slow car on the interstate.

Palm trees lined a small gradually growing triangle of white. I have found it! In the distance, I see white villas with terra cotta colored roofs lining the coast. People crowded the strip of white sand to play volleyball and kids waded in the water.

I walked further down to find a place that I could be alone with the sea. I descend the three steps to the sand. My foot sank almost entirely into the powdery substance.

The water receded several feet. A line of washed up grass cut through the middle of the beach. I tip toed over it and entered the gentle waves. I paced to get a feel of it. The water was warm. The sand molded to the shape of my feet, but was not sticky like mud would be.

I noticed a shell. After picking it up, I realized it was still in use. A snail wagged its eyestalks. I quickly put it down. I picked up another shell and inspected it suspiciously. Then I tromped to the beach to lay it next to my stuff.

I felt a sharp pain on my foot like I stepped on a fishhook. I waddled until I could examine my foot. There was nothing.

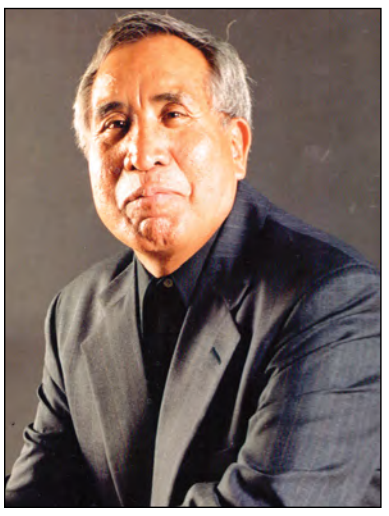
I gathered a few more shells and left. My foot was burning and throbbing. I feared that I stepped on a jellyfish. I did not see anything in the water.

During dinner, a blister started to form. It was as big as the end of my thumb and there was a puncture wound that looked like an ink pen dot.

As the next few days passed, my foot still burned and I learned it was stingray season.

OBITUARIES

BILLY CHALAKEE



OKMULGEE, Okla. — Billy W. Chalakee, who was born and raised in Okmulgee, passed away July 2, 2014 at the age of 76. He was born Sept. 20, 1937 to Webster and Martha (Bird) Chalakee in Okmulgee. He graduated in 1956 from Wilson High School. He was the Wilson Tigers biggest sport fan and had his own personal seat at the basketball games. He graduated from Haskell Indian Nations University with an associate degree in business administration. He served in 1st Cavalry Division of the U.S. Army. Billy was employed with the Bureau of Indian Affairs for many years and he retired from there in 1995.

While living for a longtime in Albuquerque, N.M., he coached baseball at Mile High Little League, coached football with the Young American Football League, was a leader for the Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts and a junior wrestling coach at Manzano and Sandia.

In 1995, Billy and his wife Amelia returned to Okmulgee. He was a Muscogee (Creek) Nation Council representative for two years. He was very active in civic activities and a judge at the MCN Challenge Bowl. Billy was a devoted member of the Honeycreek Methodist Church in Okmulgee and loved cooking for the church, especially his famous pecan pies. He was an active runner and walker and participated in walk-a-thons and 5k races. He acted in two Mvskoke language plays and was a passionate and great dancer. He had a great sense of humor, loved animals and was a lifelong sports fan. But most of all, he enjoyed spending time with his family, especially the children. Billy was loved and well respected by many who knew him and he will be greatly missed by everyone.

He is preceded in death by: his wife, Amelia Chalakee; baby sister, Mary Jane Chalakee; grandparents, Thomas and Mulsie Chalakee; parents, Webster and Martha Bird Chalakee; brothers, Tom Mix Chalakee and William (Bunky) Chalakee; daughter, Jodi Brown and son, Kirk Profitt.

Survivors include: his children, Roy M. Profitt of Texas, Mollie A. Profitt of New Mexico, Jeffrey T. Truelove-Chalakee of New Mexico and Billy W. Chalakee, Jr. of Arizona; sisters, Barbara Davis of Virginia, Thelma Harjo of New Mexico, Virginia Kolakowski of Tulsa, Stella Harjo of Tulsa, Margie Chalakee of Okmulgee, Sharon Chalakee and husband, Ray Harjo of Okmulgee and Donna Bear of Okmulgee; many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews and other family members.

Visitation was set for July 6 and the Wake Service that evening at the Jackson Funeral Home Chapel in Okmulgee.

Funeral Services was set for July 7 at the Honeycreek Methodist Church in Okmulgee with Reverend Jerry Baker officiating. Burial followed the service at the Salt Creek Cemetery in Wilson, Okla., under the direction of the Jackson Funeral Home and Crematory in Okmulgee.

Pallbearers are Aaron Truelove-Chalakee, Donald Profitt Be'ans, Rayne Harjo, Kelly Harjo, Billy Kolakowski and Jonah Fleener.

Honorary Pallbearers are Cody Chalakee, Nathan Chalakee Barnett, Ryan Harjo, Abraham Fernandez, Jose Fernandez, Antony Profitt and Roy M. Profitt IV.

Military Honors will be conducted by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Honor Guard.

Friends may send their condolences to: www.jacksonfhandcrematory.com.

PHILLIP COON



OKMULGEE, Okla. — Phillip W. Coon was born May 28, 1919 to Taylor Coon and MaSallie Johnson Coon in Okemah, Okla. He departed on his final journey June 23, 2014 and is now with his beloved Helen who called him home. Now they both sit in the seat next to our Lord.

Phillip is a 95-year-old World War II veteran and a full-blood Muscogee (Creek) citizen born into the Alligator Clan of the Nuyaka Tribal Town. After graduating from Euchee Indian Boarding School in Sapulpa, Okla., and Haskell Institute in Lawrence, Kan., Phillip volunteered for overseas duty with the U.S. Army. Pfc. Phillip William Coon was assigned to the 31st Infantry Regiment ("Polar Bears") and sent immediately to the Philippines aboard the USAT Willard A. Holbrook arriving on Oct. 23, 1941. At Fort McKinley, he trained with the 4th Squad, H Company, 31st Infantry Regiment as a .30 caliber machine gunner (M1919 Browning). At the age of 23, he fought on Bataan Peninsula against the invading Japanese forces but was captured by the Japanese Army in April 1942.

Forced on the infamous 65-mile Bataan Death March, Phillip was subjected to capricious cruelty and abuse, denied water, food, rest and protection from the sun. Nearly all on the March had surrendered sick and malnourished causing thousands to die before they reached their destination of Camp O'Donnell. Phillip credits his survival to God, or as he said, "we ran out of food, ammunition and men, but we didn't run out of prayer."

His first prisoner-of-war camp was Camp O'Donnell where he worked burial detail. For the next two years, he was held at Cabanatuan, Camp Lipa-Batangas, Camp Murphy-Rizal, and Bilibid. On Oct. 1, 1944, he was shipped via Hong Kong on the Hellship Hokusen Maru to Taiwan where he was held briefly at the Inrin Temporary POW Camp. From Taiwan he was sent to Moji, Japan, via the Hellship Melbourne Maru arriving Jan. 23, 1945. He was then shipped north to Sendai and became a slave laborer mining copper for Fujita Gumi Kosaka Kozan at the Sendai -#8B Kosaka POW Camp. Phillip credits his faith in God and the faith of others with helping him to survive.

After his liberation in Sept. 1945, he returned to the U.S. and was discharged from service as a corporal on June 24, 1946. He returned home to work as a union painter doing high-scaffold work. He was a commercial painter by trade. Helen, his wife of 67 years, died in March 2013.

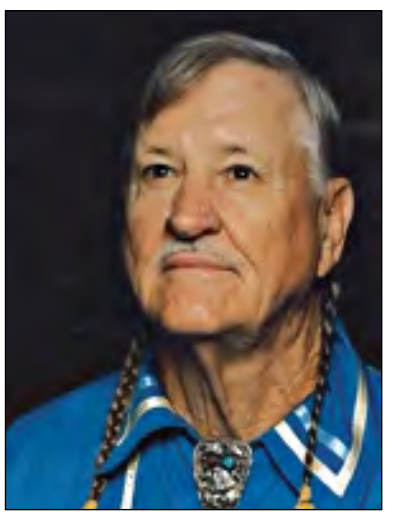
Phillip was one of eight children, Charley, Italy, Issac Coon; Edna Mae Harrison, Sophia Coon and Estella Coon. He and Helen have four children, Chester, Phyllis Jean, Linda and Michael Coon; three grandsons, Robert Coffey, Jeremy Coon and wife Jennifer and Michael Keith Coon and wife Megan; four granddaughters, Summer Herrod, Autumn Herrod, Raven Herrod, and Sky Herrod; 14 great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

In Oct. 2013, after 70 years, Phillip received the Prisoner of War Medal, Bronze Star and Combat Infantryman Badge. Phillip had just returned from a trip from Japan where he was a guest of the Government of Japan as part of an American POW delegation intended to improve relations and a path for reconciliation with victims, promoting understanding and healing.

The family crisscrossed the country regularly for veterans events where he was given much attention but Phillip always remained humble. Although he went many years not talking about his experiences during the war, he enjoyed telling his story of hope and perseverance talking to young people and veterans to overcome adversity and about the need to have a strong mind and continue on even when it's hard. He always thanked the Lord for watching over him.

Under the direction of Smith Funeral Home the services are as follows: Wake was set for June 26 at First Baptist Church in Okmulgee, the funeral service June 27 at First Baptist Church in Okmulgee and interment at Fort Gibson National Cemetery. Reception will be held after both services at Belvin Baptist Church in Okmulgee.

CLARENCE MABIRE



PACE, Fla. — Mvskoke elder Clarence Alton Mabire (Silver Fish) of Pace, 83, passed June 17, 2014. Clarence was born Oct. 24, 1930 to Charles and Ada Mabire in Pensacola, Fla.

Clarence was one of the last traditional cast net weavers of the Mvskoke Creek people of Florida. His 'cultural-specifics' Native American Indian activism covered a span of 70 years. His teasing sense of humor and quick chuckle at his own comedy will always be remembered. Clarence was a graduate from Pensacola High School, a retiree of Gulf Power, and a Korean War veteran. Clarence's love of his Lord and Savior was always at the forefront of his life.

He is preceded by his wife Addie. He is survived by: his children, Del, Redwing, David, Daniel, and Wesley; grandchildren, Zack, Tracey, Travis, Chehalis, Rain, Shakohwin, Kristy, Niccole, Stephanie, Brian, Trisha, Brittany, Alex, Elrik, Melina, and Sebrina and his great-grandchildren, Xander, Ansley, Kolby, Shashoka, Dylan, Cole, Grayson, Cameron, Hannah, Nathaniel, Jaxon. Boston and Bentley.

Services were held June 21 at 4797 Old Guernsey Rd, Pace FL 32571. Followed by burial in Flomaton, Ala., at the Flomaton Cemetery.

The family would like to thank Tammy, Tracey, Gigi, Janice, Mary, and Tim for all of their love and care given.

Flowers can be sent to 4797 Old Guernsey Rd Pace, FL 32571.

CINDY SUE YAHOLA



OKLAHOMA CITY — Cindy Sue Cheek Yahola was born March 4, 1947 in Okemah, Okla. She passed away June 19, 2014 in Oklahoma City after a six-year fight with liver failure and short-lived successful transplant.

She enjoyed playing softball in her younger years, reading, arts and crafts, crossword puzzles, Bunko and watching sports.

Cindy was very loyal to her family and was in attendance at as many events and activities as humanly possible. Most of all, she loved to watch her grandson Austin play sports. She was and always will be his biggest fan. She graduated from Bearden High School in 1958 and married Sam Yahola April 29, 1967. Cindy became a homemaker after the birth of her children. She served as treasurer for the Thlopthlocco Tribal Town from 1996-2002. She enjoyed the tribal work experience, meeting other tribes, traveling and learning the history of Thlopthlocco.

She is survived by: her husband, Sam Yahola; son, Kevin Yahola; daughter, Kerri Yahola and grandson Austin Harrigill; brothers and sisters, Wanda Weaver of Sapulpa, Okla., Julia Langan of Stillwater, Okla., Weaver Cheek of Perkins, Okla., Mary Cheek of Glenpool, Okla., Brenda White of Okemah, Hazel Bunner of Okmulgee, Okla., Perry Cheek of Okemah, Nina Ozment of Oklahoma City and Timmy Cheek of Okemah along with many cousins, nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.

Services were held under the direction of Parks Brothers Funeral Home in Okemah and officiated by Rev. Randy Mitchell.

Online condolences may be made at www.ParksBrothersFuneralHome.com.



Muscogee (Creek) Nation Community and Tribal Events

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

IN THE MATTER OF:
J. R., DOB: 09-22-2009
A. Y. T-R., DOB: 01-31-2011
A. L. T-R., DOB: 05-07-2012
J. R., DOB: 03-19-2014
Alleged Deprived Children.

Case No. JV-2014-03

JUVENILE SUMMONS

THE MUSCOGEE NATION to: Manuel Sanchez, Natural Father of J.R.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a Petition has been filed in the Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation alleging that the above-named children are deprived children and that, as the parent of said child(ren), you have been named as the Respondent, all as more fully set out in the Petition.

YOU ARE THEREFORE ORDERED TO APPEAR at the Courtroom of the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee, Oklahoma, on the 5th day of Sept 2014 at the hour of 9 : 00 A m. for an **Adjudication Hearing** and to there remain subject to the call of the Court until discharged so that you may be advised of the allegations and may answer that you admit or deny the allegations of the Deprived Petition.

You may seek the advice of any attorney on any matter relating to this action at your own expense. Or, if you are qualified as indigent, an attorney can be appointed for you.

IF YOU FAIL TO ATTEND THIS HEARING, YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS MAY BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED AND YOU MAY BE CITED FOR CONTEMPT OF COURT AND A BENCH WARRANT MAY BE ISSUED FOR YOUR ARREST.

Issued this 26th day of June 2014.

Debbie King
Deputy Court Clerk
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court

[Seal]

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE CREEK NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

DISTRICT COURT
FILED
2014 MAY 7 PM 3 07
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
DONNA BEAVER
COURT CLERK

Muscogee (Creek) Nation
Plaintiff,
vs.
Two Hundred Fifty-Five Dollars and no/100 ($255.00)
Defendant.

Case No.: CV 2014-61

NOTICE OF SEIZURE AND INTENDED FORFEITURE

THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION TO: Dale Estus Sutton, 201 S. Gurtude, Wagoner, OK 74467; and all others claiming an interest in the above described property.

You are hereby notified that the Muscogee (Creek) Nation has seized and intends to forfeit the above described property under the provisions of MCNCA Title 22 §, 2-102, *et seq.*

Said property was seized on or about the 10TH day of January 2014, from said Dale Estus Sutton and forfeiture is sought for the reason that said defendant had money in close proximity to illegal drugs on his person;

The owner, claimant or other party in interest may file a verified answer and claim to the above named property within forty-five days of notice after which time the Muscogee (Creek) Nation will move the Court for an Order of Forfeiture for said property.

Respectfully Submitted.

Shelly Harrison, Prosecutor
Muscogee (Creek) Nation
Department of Justice
PO Box 580
Okmulgee, OK 7447
(918) 295-9720

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

DISTRICT COURT
FILED
2014 JUL 17 AM 9 42
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
DONNA BEAVER
COURT CLERK

IN THE MATTER OF:
Baby Girl J., DOB: 05/24/14
Alleged Deprived Child.

Case No. JV-2014-04

JUVENILE SUMMONS

THE MUSCOGEE NATION to: Tony Dean Taylor, Natural Father to Baby Girl J.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a Petition has been filed in the Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation alleging that the above-named child is a deprived child and that, as the parent of said child, you have been named as the Respondent, all as more fully set out in the Petition.

YOU ARE THEREFORE ORDERED TO APPEAR at the Courtroom of the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee, Oklahoma, on the 5th day of September, **2014 at the hour of** 9 : 00 A .m. **for an Adjudication Hearing** and to there remain subject to the call of the Court until discharged so that you may be advised of the allegations and may answer that you admit or deny the allegations of the Deprived Petition.

You may seek the advice of any attorney on any matter relating to this action at your own expense. Or, if you are qualified as indigent, an attorney can be appointed for you.

IF YOU FAIL TO ATTEND THIS HEARING, YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS MAY BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED AND YOU MAY BE CITED FOR CONTEMPT OF COURT AND A BENCH WARRANT MAY BE ISSUED FOR YOUR ARREST.

Issued this 17th day of July 2014.

Debbie King
Deputy Court Clerk
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court

[Seal]

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE CREEK NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

DISTRICT COURT
FILED
2014 JUL 17 PM 3 34
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
DONNA BEAVER
COURT CLERK

Muscogee (Creek) Nation
Plaintiff,
vs.
1998 Lexus GS 300, Four (4) Door Passenger Car, Red and White, VIN #JT8BD68S2W0042294
Defendant.

Case No.: CV-2014-28

ORDER SETTING HEARING

NOW on this 17 day of July 2014 the Muscogee (Creek) Nation's Motion to Set Hearing comes before me, the undersigned Judge of the District Court. The Court, being fully advised in the premise, finds that the above-entitled action should be set for a Disposition Hearing.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the above-entitled action is set for on the 29th of September 2014 at 9 : 00 A.M.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that notice of the hearing shall be given to the parties as required by law.

JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT

CCIC Elections set for Aug. 5

CROMWELL, Okla. — The Cromwell Creek Indian Community elections are set for Aug. 5 at 6 p.m.

MCN SRO Program Fair set for Aug. 8

WETUMKA, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Southern Regional Office program fair is set for Aug. 8 from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at 333 S. Washita, Wetumka, OK 74883.

For more information contact Darleata Tiger at: 405-452-1102 or Natasha Harjo at: 405-452-1100.

DCIC Elections set for September

BEGGS, Okla. — The Duck Creek Indian Community elections are scheduled for the September community meeting and letters of intent for running are due Aug. 30.

The following offices are open: chairman, vice-chair, secretary and treasurer.

TCIC Elections set for Sept. 18

TULSA, Okla. — The Tulsa Creek Indian Community has set an election for the chairperson, secretary, treasurer and sergeant-at-arms board positions for Sept. 18 from 6-8 p.m.

The deadline for letters of intent and $20 payment for background checks is July 23 by 5 p.m.

For more information contact Roman Powell at: 918-695-2781.

MCN SRO August schedule

MCN SRO/*Media Release*

WETUMKA, Okla. — The following is the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Southern Regional Office schedule for August.

Aug. 5 - Tax Commission
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
TERO 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Aug. 6 - Child Support Enforcement
8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Aug. 8 - Program Fair
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Aug. 12 - Tax Commission
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
TERO 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Aug. 19 - Tax Commission
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
TERO 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Aug. 20 - Child Support Enforcement
8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Aug. 22 - Women, Infants and Children Program
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Aug. 26 - Tax Commission
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
TERO 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

For more information, contact the MCN SRO at: 405-452-1100.

CMCA annual gathering set for Aug. 2

Media Release

ANAHEIM, Calif. — The California Muscogee (Creek) Association invites citizens and friends to the annual CMCA gathering to be lead by new CMCA Interim President Jason Nichols Aug. 2 from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Native American United Methodist Church, 800 S. Lemon, Anaheim, CA.

Visitors are expected from across California and nearby states. As in previous years, we will meet in the fellowship hall. There is a fenced grassy area for children to play.

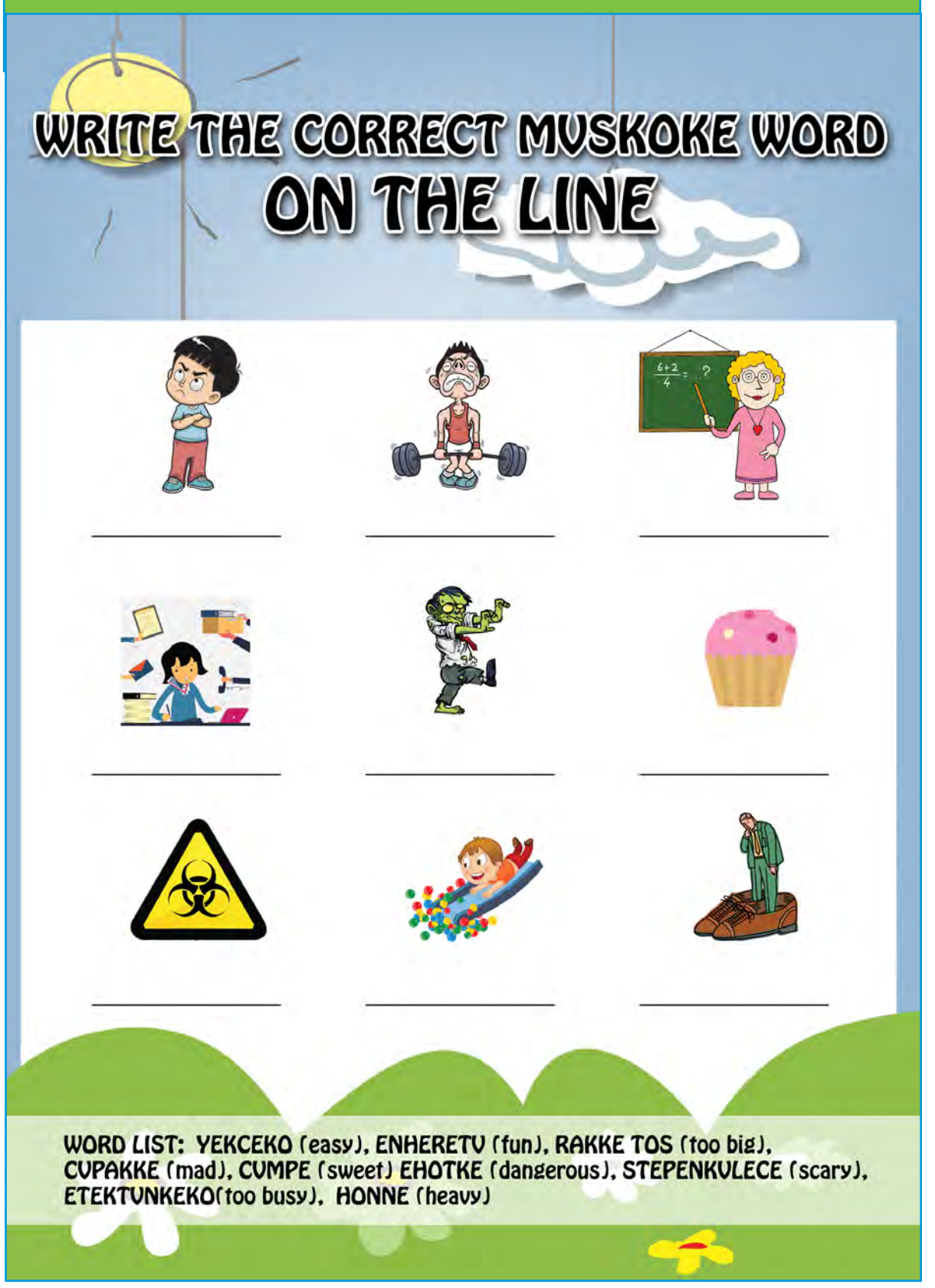
Please bring plenty of food and drinks for the potluck meal. Coffee will be furnished.

The Native American church is very near Disneyland and in the very center of Orange County.

For more information contact George Windes, CMCA President at: 714-970-6468 or georgewindes@gmail.com.

Sterling J. Cooper
Editor

A word puzzle from the Mvskoke Language Preservation Program



Second Cobell payment due in Fall
- Page 4

Muscogee (Creek) traditionalist passes away
- Page 8

Muscogee Nation News

Mvskoke Media production — The official tribal newspaper of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation

Aug. 15, 2014

Vol. 44, Issue 16
"Hiyo Rakko"
Big Harvest

Tiger gives quarterly report during Council session

Principal Chief discusses achievements

George Tiger/*MCN Principal Chief*



MNN/Jessica McBride

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger speaks at the MCN National Council Quarterly Session July 26, at the Mound Building in Okmulgee, Okla.

OKMULGEE, Okla. — As many of you may recall, my platform for change was, 'Progressive Thinking and Action, Economic Development and Government Transparency.' As you will hear today, this administration continues to meet and exceed those stated goals and expectations while providing excellent services to the citizens of this Nation.

This administration excels because everything we do is by and for the citizens of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN). We have always said and lived by these words, "Our Nationhood is our people. If it weren't for the people, we wouldn't be here."

Progressive thinking has saved the Nation hundreds of thousands of dollars while adding value back into programs and services.

The Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) secured $700,000 in funding to assist Muscogee (Creek) entrepreneurs. CDFI has furnished 11 loans for this quarter and that's the most they have given since the program started. Because of the CDFI program, there's a new carpet cleaning company, machine shop and Indian art gallery; to name a few, which are creating jobs for Muscogee (Creek) citizens.

Our self-insurance plan operated under the State Unemployment Tax Act is saving the Nation considerable funds. We recently received a rebate check in the amount of approximately $1.2 million from the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission for unemployment taxes. That is a return on our investment in

Tiger - 3

Funds approved during Council session to pave Industrial Park

Legal counsel authorized for trespassing violation

Jessica McBride/*Editorial Assistant*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A quarterly session of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council was held July 26 at the MCN Mound Building in Okmulgee.

The Council addressed the following legislation:

- NCR 14-004 Approving the forensic audit consulting services agreement between the National Council and REDW LLC and assisted by Hogan Taylor LLP. Reps. Thomas Yahola, Frank Coachman, David Hill and Lucian Tiger sponsored the resolution, which was postponed until the next session.
- TR 14-100 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a medical supply agreement for the MCN Department of Health with the Indian Health Service and McKesson Corporation. Rep. Shirlene Ade sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.
- TR 14-101 Authorizing the principal chief to execute an Oklahoma State Board of Pharmacy notice of renewal license for each MCNDH pharmacy. Rep. Dode Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.
- TR 14-102 Authorizing the principal chief to dispose of MCNDH property located in Tulsa County. Rep. Darrell Proctor sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.
- TR 14-103 Approving the revised eligibility, admissions and occupancy policy for the MCN Department of Housing. Rep. Mark Randolph sponsored the resolution,

Council - 2

Community assembly stresses planning

Leaders discuss economic development

Jessica McBride/*Editorial Assistant*



MNN/Jessica McBride

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Community Research and Development Director Floyd Jones discusses his goals for the department during the CRD quarterly training session July 19, at the Mvskoke Dome building in Okmulgee, Okla.

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Community Research and Development Department held a summer quarterly training session July 19 at the Mvskoke Dome building in Okmulgee.

MCN chartered community members came from around the MCN jurisdiction to meet with MCN officials and learn how to plan for their future endeavors.

The primary purpose of the session was to reconnect and open dialogue with communities in an open forum to discuss planning and economic development.

MCN Principal Chief George Tiger, who served as the guess speaker, emphasized the importance of communities to the Nation.

"Our communities are the backbone of who we are as Mvskokvlke," Tiger said. "When you're successful at the community level, it means that Muscogee (Creek) Nation

Communities - 2

MvskokeMedia

MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

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The **Muscogee Nation News** is the official publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Its purpose is to meet the needs of the tribe and its citizens through the dissemination of information. Reprint permission is granted with credit to The **Muscogee Nation News** unless other copyrights are shown.

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Editorials and letters must be signed by the individual writer and include a traceable address or phone number to be considered for publication.

Please contact our office for deadline of submissions to be considered for inclusion. The **Muscogee Nation News** reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style and grammar. Receipt of submissions does not obligate The **Muscogee Nation News** in any regard.

The **Muscogee Nation News** is mailed from Stigler, Okla., to all enrolled citizens' households upon request and proof of citizenship. Inquiries should be directed to Mvskoke Media. Please include your tribal enrollment number with all correspondence.

To submit a change of address or a letter to the editor, call 918 - 732 - 7720 or send e-mail to: wmurphy@mcn-nsn.gov.

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Native American Journalist Association

Members of the Native American Journalists Association



MNN/Amanda Rutland
A quarterly session of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council was held July 26 at the MCN Mound Building in Okmulgee, Okla.

Council

Continued from Page 1

which was postponed until the next session.

- TR 14-104 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a clinical rotation agreement between MCN and Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Okla. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.
- TR 14-105 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a network participation agreement with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Oklahoma for MCNDH. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.
- TR 14-106 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a provider participation agreement for MCNDH with Guardian Life Insurance Company of America. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.
- TR 14-107 Authorizing the principal chief to execute an agreement with Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology in Okmulgee for operational space for the MCN Vocational Rehabilitation Services program. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.
- TR 14-108 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a participation health systems agreement with Healthcare Highways Incorporated for MCNDH. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.
- TR 14-109 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a consent to assignment of agreements with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Oklahoma for MCNDH. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.
- TR 14-110 Authorizing the principal chief to submit an Indian Community Development Block Grant application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to provide microenterprise loans to eligible tribal members. Coachman sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.
- TR 14-111 Authorizing the principal chief to execute an agreement with Enterprise Holding Inc., for rental car services. Rep. Robert Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.
- TR 14-112 Authorizing the principal chief to enter into a travel service agreement with Southwest Airlines. Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.
- TR 14-113 Authorizing the principal chief to execute an electronic funds transfer authorization agreement, an electronic data interchange enrollment and Medicare enrollment applications with the U.S. Medicare and Medicaid Services. Rep. James Jennings sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.
- TR 14-114 Authorizing the MCN Legal Services Program to appoint legal counsel to pursue a trespass action upon restricted property located in McIntosh County. Reps. Adam Jones, Joyce Deere, Mitch Jack, David Nichols, Darrell Proctor, Coachman, Hill, Hufft and Randolph sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.
- TR 14-115 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a mandate letter with term sheet and fee letter with Bank of Oklahoma, which outline the terms and conditions of financing a proposed government services building, a hospital in Okemah, Okla., and a health clinic in Eufaula, Okla. Coachman sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.
- TR 14-116 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a local Head Start agreement with Checotah, Tulsa, Okmulgee, Eufaula, Morris, Dewar, Holdenville, Okemah, Ryal, Sapulpa and Wetumka Public Schools to provide services to children with disabilities. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.
- TR 14-117 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a facility use agreement with Koweta Creek Indian Community to operate a smoke shop on MCN property. Randolph sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.
- TR 14-118 Authorizing the principal chief to apply for grant opportunities available through the Division of Energy and Mineral Development Energy and Mineral Development Program and to execute necessary grant documents. Nichols sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.
- TR 14-119 Authorizing the principal chief to submit an application to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Business Opportunity Grant to provide a business incubator. Coachman sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.
- TR 14-120 Authorizing the MCN Gaming Operations Authority Board to execute a commercial services agreement with Cox Business for service to River Spirit Casino in Tulsa, Okla. Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.
- NCA 14-080 Amending NCA 13-200, a law approving and authorizing the principal chief to execute and file the articles of organization with the Secretary of the Nation to form Onefire Holding Company LLC under the MCN Limited Liability Company Act and approving the operating agreement for OHC. Yahola sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- NCA 14-102 Appropriating $250 to a Muscogee (Creek) youth. Nichols sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- NCA 14-103 Authorizing a donation of $1,500 to the California Muscogee (Creek) Association. Hill and Coachman sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- NCA 14-104 Authorizing the expenditure of $549,994.64 for paving and drainage improvements located at the MCN Industrial Park in Okmulgee. Proctor sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- NCA 14-105 Establishing a MCN Lighthorse Police Explorer revolving fund. Coachman sponsored the amendment, which passed 13-1 with Tiger voting against it.
- NCA 14-106 Authorizing $5,000 for membership dues to the Native American Finance Officers Association. Hill sponsored the amendment, which passed 9-5 with Hufft, Jennings, Nichols, Tiger and Barnett voting against it.
- NCA 14-107 Amending MCN Code Annotated title 22, chapter 4, section 4-108 entitled Administration of Department of Health. Tiger sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- NCA 14-108 Appropriating $750 to three Muscogee (Creek) youth. Proctor and Jennings sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- NCA 14-109 Amending MCNCA title 6, sections 6-201 and 202, entitled Child Support Guidelines. Coachman sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- NCA 14-112 Authorizing a $2,000 donation to a political candidate. Jennings and Hill sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

Rep. Mitch Jack was excused.

Communities

Continued from Page 1

overall is successful."

Tiger said that other tribes look to mirror the structure of communities at MCN.

"A lot of tribes don't have the setup that we have here at Muscogee (Creek) Nation," Tiger said. "A lot of tribes look to Creek Nation when it comes to their communities to see how they can do things."

MCN Secretary of Community and Human Services Cherrah Giles introduced CRD Director Floyd Jones at the session. Jones has been in his position since June 16.

"So it's under his leadership now that this office will continue to grow and receive direction from you as community leaders as well," Giles said.

This was the first CRD session organized by Jones. Jones said he is eager to take on his new role at MCN.

"I'm excited about being in this position; being part of the Community Research and Development team," Jones said.

Jones has an extensive background working for MCN in the Children and Family Services Department and the Housing Department. Jones has also been involved with the communities since the 1980s.

Jones hopes to rebuild trust and develop communication with the communities.

"We want to develop that trust with you… we have to get to know you in a way that we share your ideas and concerns," Jones said. "If there's anything we can ever do for you please call us… we just want you to be successful and we want to be available to you."

The session featured discussions regarding issues within the communities and MCN officials presented ideas to community leaders.

Attendees were able to ask questions of presenters and inquire about legal issues with MCN Assistant Attorney General JoEtta Toppah.

Among the presenters were: MCN Secretary of the Nation Bill Fife, Tribal Planning Director Cody Jennings, Business Development Specialist John Blue and Small Business Development Center Chairman J.D. Colbert.

Jones reminded attendees that the session was meant to plant a seed so that the communities could continue to develop and grow.

"We open that door today where you can begin to think about doing economic development ventures and understand that it just doesn't happen overnight; it takes time," Jones said.

According to Jones, 16 of the 25 communities were represented. Individuals present at the event included 79 attendees and staff, four cabinet members and five elected officials.

CRD plans to host a workshop in September for community members over parliamentary procedures, financial management and conflict resolution.

The next CRD quarterly training session will be held in October or November. The location and date have yet to be determined.

Tiger

Continued from Page 1

human capital.

Since last year, the MCN Scholarship Foundation Program has raised over $150,000 from private and public sector donors. A recent donation drive among employees offered payroll deduction starting at $5 per pay period and up, with many employees contributing. The Scholarship Foundation is an initiative, which shows our dedication to aiding tribal citizens in helping others achieve their educational goals. Because of this program, Muscogee (Creek) students are getting a higher education and the skill sets they need for a successful career.

The MCN Attorney General's new legal aid program to citizens has resulted in a projected cost savings of $1.5 million annually as compared to the previous program. The program assists citizens in the areas of: uncontested probates, wills, trusts and uncontested guardianships, freeing up resources and funds for other areas of administration. That's not just progressive thinking; that's teamwork.

The Fountainhead Property Transfer Act was introduced in Congress this quarter ceding 18 acres of property to the MCN for development. It is currently pending congressional approval. The fee to trust process for the Fountainhead property is a priority of the MCN Realty Department and we anticipate the application to move ahead successfully in the coming months.

The administration continues to hold listening meetings throughout the Nation. A listening session was hosted at the Muscogee Indian Community Center to address the issues and concerns of Muscogee (Creek) citizens. The next Listening Session is scheduled for Aug. 16 at the MCN Southern Regional Office in Wetumka, Okla., from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. We encourage all Muscogee (Creek) citizens to come their thoughts and insights with MCN Cabinet members and program managers.

The MCN Diabetes Prevention Program distributes diabetic footwear, including heat moldable inserts. Diabetic footcare costs about $400 per year. 70 percent of all diabetic foot amputations cost on average $75,000 and can be prevented by providing diabetic footcare/footwear. So, for just 10 patients, the MCN can generate a cost savings of $750,000 annually; and maintain the quality of life for its citizens in the process. In addition, two podiatrists have been hired and a new wound care program is in place.

Services to our citizens by the MCN Department of Health are increasing as we broke ground on new facilities in Okemah, Eufaula and added an MRI Unit at the MCN Medical Center. An offsite pharmacy refill center is being planned for the building located in Sapulpa on Oklahoma State Highway 117 and will open by Oct. 1. We are pleased to announce that during the past six months, three Creek physicians and one non-Native physician were added to the Department of Health medical staff in the following specialties: orthopedic surgery, psychiatry, chiropractic medicine and anesthesiology.

The MCN Language Preservation Program staff is working on a Mvskoke language application for the I-pad, I-phone and Android platforms for learning the language and getting translations. The staff is developing a Mvskoke audio dictionary that will be offered to citizens. Our administration continually looks for ways to promote, protect and preserve our language because we know how important language is to our culture and traditions.

Our administration developed and implemented a Mvskoke history class that is mandatory for each employee of the Nation because we consider every employee an ambassador of our tribe. This quarter, 1,029 employees have completed the course. The Health Department had 148 employees complete the course. At this time, there are only a few employees of the Nation that have not received this valuable lesson on our Mvskoke history. In the future, this course will be offered via webinar and available on the website for citizens.

During this quarter, our public relations department coordinated the MCN Capitol Day. This is the first time our Nation had a presence at the state capitol, showing a concerted presence during the legislative session that day. Over 70 employees from 20 programs were in attendance, presenting information and educational materials to: the public, legislators, legislative staff and government employees.

Progressive thinking is our administration's commitment to continuous improvement while Economic Development is our dedication to growing our resources for the people.

In the area of economic development:

This quarter the CDFI staff held two business trainings with 20 people in attendance. They closed loans totaling $163,635 to Muscogee (Creek) businesses; creating 23 jobs, of which 83 percent are held by Muscogee (Creek) citizens. There are currently two loans pending approval totaling $65,000 to create four Muscogee (Creek) jobs.

Tribal government employees, not including those with health, gaming and Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise, exceed $37 million in annual earnings from the MCN. The annual wages for the Department of Health exceeded $33 million. These dollars go back into the local economies and tax structures mainly within the MCN jurisdiction, giving our citizens potential power at the polls and in government.

The College of the Muscogee Nation has generated over $7 million in grant funds to pay for the cost of facilities and is now eligible to receive federal funding under the Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities Assistance Act. The College has been recommended for initial accreditation; and now has over 200 enrolled students per semester, with approximately 90 percent being Muscogee (Creek) citizens.

Fountainhead Golf Course had 34 tournaments booked through June compared to 15 in 2013; hosting 3A Girls State Tournament, 4A Boys Regional Tournament and the Mvskoke Nation Festival recently as well. The website is now updated and accessible at: www.fountainheadgolf.com, and tee times can now be booked online, which will result in more traffic to the course in the future.

As you know, golf courses are not a strong revenue stream but provide jobs and an economic stream for our people. Fountainhead's 2014 season has been tremendously productive; with $430,000 year to date total sales generated compared to $382,000 in 2013. This is evidence of the number of satisfied golfers from across the State of Oklahoma and the impact of the improved grounds on golfers. Operating Fountainhead Golf Course also strengthens the bonds of community sharing and partnerships.

The 2014 Festival shattered all previous attendance records; from participation in Festival events, web traffic on: www.creekfestival.com and social media such as Facebook and Twitter to a total estimated 45,000 people taking part in the festivities here in Okmulgee, Okla. Food vending spaces were filled 100 percent by Muscogee (Creek) citizens.

During this quarter, a request for quotation for Architectural and Engineering Services for the Council House were put up for bid on April 11, 2014. On May 16, 2014, the Council House Restoration Committee conducted interviews at the Council House and selected one to complete the first phase of the project. Work will begin soon on the revival of our beloved Council House that holds so many memories of historical and traditional significance to our people.

With cooperation of the MCN National Council, we completed a roads project at Bacone College in June 2014 that will provide better access for students attending that institution. The Nation's funding source for this project was federal funds in the amount of $1 million. In fact, during this administration, we have had a record number of roads and bridge projects using federal funds in various parts of the Nation. Leveraging of federal funds is a progressive tool toward making lasting ties in our communities.

Through progressive and aggressive financial management, the MCN Tax Commission reduced their debt obligation from $74 million to 11.5 million while increasing revenues from tags, gas and tobacco to over $1 million.

The MCN Cultural Center and Archives Department recently received a $50,000 grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). The money will be available Oct. 1 and will be used to purchase much needed equipment and supplies to care for the Council House collection. This is a huge step for this department and shows, 'progress as promised' by the administration.

In the area of government transparency:

We are proud to report that the fiscal year 2013 Single Audit and Comprehensive Annual Financial Report were completed and submitted to the federal government on time. One of the treasury department's strategic goals in 2012 was completing the annual comprehensive audit on time and without any findings.

The MCN Office of the Treasury is pleased to announce that the Nation's Permanent Fund, which as you know is our Nation's nest egg, is doing well and has grown to a market value of $280 million. We expect to see that market grow in value to $300 million by the end of the year. Two years ago, this fund was $193 million, meaning we have seen the permanent fund grow. $89 million and $50 million of that growth is from investments.

For fiscal year 2014, the controller reports that there is $130.4 million in the Tribal Funds Budget. Also, the Nation additionally operates programs with over $104 million provided by federal grants. For a total of $234 million in the tribal annual budget. Our net position combining cash, capital, investments, assets, the Permanent Fund and the like is $585 million.

MCN administration and gaming together employs approximately 5,000 people. 70 percent of them or about 3500 are Muscogee (Creek) citizens.

The MCN Information Technology Department eliminated redundancy in providers resulting in a cost savings of $167,660 per year. Further savings were made by eliminating $2000 in monthly Internet fees at the MCN Citizenship Office. The IT Department consolidated copiers and printers across the MCN Tribal Complex resulting in annual savings exceeding $100,000.

Our administration contracted with another provider for 401(K) insurance services resulting in the elimination of over $100,000 in administrative fees.

Tribal Government cell phone contracts were eliminated and providers agreed to eliminate activation fees and provide individual employees with a government rate. This has saved the Nation an excess of $100,000 annually.

The Health Department acquired a hospital in Okmulgee that had a debt exceeding $4 million. That debt as of now is around $300,000.

The MCN Interior Department's cattle operation sold 47 steers for $78,000.00 last week. Hanna Farms is currently cultivating wheat and anticipates 23 bushels per acre. The western side of Oklahoma yielded about 5.5 bushels per acre. The watermelons aren't ready for harvest but the crop will be the best in six years. There are over 60 vendors waiting to fill orders for watermelon.

Housing management assisted Muscogee (Creek) homebuyers this quarter, having 375 office visits, 2,289 telephone calls, 184 re-certifications, 16 new move-ins, 142 annual inspections, five home visits, 20 court hearings and two deeds files. And that's just a very brief sample of the services the MCN Housing Department provided to Muscogee (Creek) citizens.

The Tribal Employment Rights Office (TERO) has certified 131 Native owned businesses and a 44 Muscogee (Creek) citizen owned businesses are on the TERO certified vendor list.

Our Higher Education Program has assisted 527 students with grants or scholarship awards funded by six programs administered by the MCN Higher Education staff. Total expenditures for grants of the six programs are $559,311.

MCN has the highest funded tribal transit program in the U.S., with $1.9 million in the annual budget proving our commitment to providing services to our people. This transit program has received extra federal funds to supplement services because of the success they have demonstrated in using funds wisely and strategically.

We have a lot to be proud of within the Nation, with our citizens and our employees:

Higher Education had 34 Muscogee (Creek) citizens graduate in spring 2014 made up of 30 bachelors, two associates and two masters degrees.

Charley LaSarge was appointed as a member of The Governor's Oklahoma United We Ride Council. This Council was created in 2004 by executive order and is in meeting needs and public awareness of Oklahoma transportation services. Their focus is on services to elders, people with disabilities and those with low income.

Our MCN Transportation Department received the 2013 Transit Marketing Award for Excellence from the Oklahoma Transit Association, in partnership with KI BOIS Area Transit System.

We predicted in our Strategic Plan, that more Muscogee (Creek) citizens would serve in public office at local, county, state and federal positions. We now have a Muscogee (Creek) citizen serving as vice-mayor of Okmulgee who works at the Cultural Center and Archives Department, Chris Azbell; and we currently have other Muscogee (Creek) citizens running for state office.

Christina Good Voice, Manager of Mvskoke Media now serves on the National Native American Journalism Association (NAJA) Board.

Mvskoke Media received 17 awards from NAJA, ranging from General Excellence in Radio, Best Coverage of Native Americans in Print and Best Feature Story to name a few.

The MCN Reintegration Program (RIP), directed by Tony Fish, was awarded the 2014 National Criminal Justice Association Outstanding Criminal Justice Program Award and members of the RIP staff will be attending the National Forum on Criminal Justice in Breckenridge, Colo., to accept the award. This program is becoming a national model of success and one we are extremely proud to see growing and receiving well deserved recognition.

MCN Principal Chief George Tiger was honored with the Helen Chupco Award by the Oklahoma Federation of Indian Women and was named in May as 'National Tribal Leader of the Year' by the Native American Finance Officers Association (NAFOA).

I hope this verbal report highlights our significant accomplishments during this reporting period. As the Council will note, you have more detailed information in the written reports provided to you. As you can see, this administration's dedication to, 'Progressive Thinking, Economic Development and Government Transparency,' is making a positive difference in the lives of our Muscogee (Creek) citizens on a daily basis. We are continually improving the financial base of the Nation, which in turn creates the means to serve our citizens for decades to come. We plan to stay on this path of self-sufficiency and Nation building during this administration.

It is my pleasure to provide to you this quarterly report for period ending June 30, 2014. In summary, we are raising the wealth of our people and the quality of life of our people is also increasing. We in the administration are honored to serve the people of this great Nation to the best of our abilities, skills and talents because as said, 'This Nationhood is Our People…..We are Mvskoke.'

Second Cobell payment due in fall



Payments due to eligible recipients in late September

Gary Fife/*Radio Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Many Muscogee (Creek) landowners received a $1,000 payment from the U.S. government December 2012 as stage one of the Cobell settlement.

The payment was part of the Cobell v. Salazar, Secretary of the Interior class action lawsuit that resulted in the settlement relating to the U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs' mismanagement of Indian trust responsibilities and resources such as land, grazing and oil.

The settlement affects Indian trust beneficiaries who had an Individual Indian Money account from approximately 1985-Sept. 30, 2009 or had an interest in trust or restricted land as of Sept. 30, 2009.

Individual Indian Money accounts, also known as IIM or IM accounts are for Indian property owners who may lease their property for various purposes such as grazing or oil and gas development. The Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians distributes Indian land and resources payments to individuals through these accounts.

This fall, there should be a second payment for those who qualify, although it may be a little different according to Warren Austin of the DOI OSTAI in Tulsa, Okla.

Austin said people who received a payment in stage one should receive the next payment, although amounts could vary significantly.

"Stage two is a larger group because they changed the criteria," Austin said. "Number (stage) one, you would have to be alive September 30, 2009. They extended the period for the IIM account. You had to be from 1985 through September 30, 2009 and you had to have one cash transaction posted to the IM account. This is where the criteria changes."

He went on to explain the payment process for those without an IIM account.

"Many individuals who owned restricted trust property but they don't have an IIM account, they're paid directly by the oil and gas company," Austin said. "So, if they can demonstrate that they own restricted trust property, be it surface land or an oil and gas lease which is considered real property; then they would qualify for the stage two payment."

Presently, a stage two payment will be made through a contractor, the Garden City Group of Dublin, Ohio; who is handling the process and administering the trust fund.

Austin pointed out that the amount of payments to be made is affected by this potentially larger pool of recipients.

"The payment for Stage Two will be, according to the Garden City Group, should be a base amount of $800; plus what they go through is, they determine your 10 highest years between 1985 and 2009," Austin said. "Then they determine that average and then that average will be used to calculate a variable amount."

He further explained the payment process beyond the flat settlement amount.

"In other words, you'll get the $800 plus a variable amount. The variable amount would be determined basically by how many claim holders there are. So, I have no way of stating how much that would be. Some people would get an additional $10; some individuals may get as high as $50,000. It just depends on that 10 year average of the money going through the IM account," Austin said.

Cobell settlement funds paid out to individuals will not be taxable by the Internal Revenue Service. However, Austin warns that the money could have an effect on the eligibility of people receiving social service assistance payments. He strongly suggests contacting the agencies granting the assistance for an opinion.

Information phone lines have been set up to answer questions. The Trust Beneficiary call center can be reached at: 1-888-678-6836. The Garden City Group can be contacted at: 1-800-961-6109. For more information, individuals can also visit: www.indiantrust.com.

In closing, Austin mentioned there is a group they refer to as: "W-A-U;" Whereabouts Unknown. This is a group of individuals who have an IIM account but have not been able for contact because they do not have a current address on file. He said a copy of that list is available at the DOI website: www.DOI.gov, or at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Realty Office.

Austin said that the Garden City Group website is estimating that eligible IIM account holders can expect to see a check somewhere late September.

MFSI hosts agriculture conference



MNN/Jessica McBride

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Children from the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Child Development Center high-five Smokey the Bear for his birthday celebration at the Empowering Youth, Veterans, Ranchers and Farmers Annual Conference July 30, at the Oklahoma State University Extension Center in Okmulgee, Okla.

The conference was sponsored by the Mvskoke Food Sovereignty Initiative and the Oklahoma Black Historical Research Project Incorporated.






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New MCN satellite center showcases available services



MNN/Chelsie Rich
Muscogee (Creek) Nation Social Security Assistance Program Office Manager Terra Beaver (left) talks to a Muscogee (Creek) citizen about the services that will be available at the new Muscogee Regional Office located at 111 S. Virginia in Muskogee, Okla.

Muscogee Regional Office holds open house

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

MUSKOGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation has something new for their citizens in the eastern portion of the tribal jurisdiction.

The Muscogee Regional Office, located at 111 S. Virginia, Muskogee, OK, held an open house July 23 to showcase services that will be available at the satellite center. The location formerly housed the Muscogee Indian Community.

"When the community moved into its new building, they turned this building back into the Muscogee (Creek) Nation," Secretary of the MCN Department of Community and Human Services Cherrah Giles said. "The Elderly Nutrition Program still serves their lunch here, so we wanted to keep the doors open for that. There are a couple of office spaces that we wanted to open up to the departments in the Nation for satellite offices."

Giles shared that more space is available for MCN programs.

"We hope that some of the departments will come here and look at the regional office, and if they have a high client base over here; come and serve our citizens," Giles said.

MCN has already spread its wings to help better serve citizens with the Southern Regional Office location in Wetumka, Okla. Giles feels that regional offices ease the burden of travel for citizens seeking services who face a considerable commute to the Nation's capitol.

"Having an office here can help lessen the drive for everyone that are getting our services," Giles said. "Once the citizens knows that we are here, it will help them knowing they do not have to drive all the way to Okmulgee and make a day of it."

Giles hopes that with the MRO, departments can utilize the office to serve citizens in the evenings or on weekends.

"We want to make the MRO available to anyone here and in the surrounding areas," Giles said. "We want to work with the Muscogee Indian Community as well and somehow workout a partnership with them."

Among the people who addressed attendees at the open house were MCN Principal Chief George Tiger and MCN National Council Muscogee District Seat B Rep. Joyce Deere.

"I am so glad that we have this regional office here in our eastern part of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation," Deere said. "It shows that us, as a tribe is growing and making progress everyday; and have an office here for our citizens is one way of showing it."

Giles stated the MRO should be in operation by the end of August.

For more information, contact MCN CHS Program Development Manager Jenifer Gover at: 918-549-2555.

MCN offers salary enhancement for Mvskoke language speakers



Shutterstock
The Muscogee (Creek) Nation offers a salary enhancement of 50 cents per hour for employees who speak the Mvskoke language.

Incentive aims to help save language

Chelsie Rich/*Project Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation offers a salary enhancement for tribal employees who speak the Mvskoke language.

"It's an incentive to encourage people to speak the language more," said MCN Mvskoke Language Preservation Program Interim Manager, Chumona Deere.

According to the MCN Human Resources Policies and Procedures Manual, Chapter G Title 3, 'a salary enhancement of 50 cents per hour for qualified MCN language-speaking employees will be paid to full-time regular employees certified by the Language Qualifying Committee.'

New employees must complete the 60-day probationary period in order to receive the enhancement.

The committee is made up of three to five people appointed by MLPP who speak the Mvskoke language fluently.

To become certified, employees must take an oral, written and reading test over the language.

"It's okay if they don't pass the reading or writing, the main thing we're looking at is the oral, that they can speak," Deere said. "We just carry on conversations with them to see if they can speak the language. We ask them questions, we'll have them to ask us questions,"

For employees who pass, the salary enhancement will be added to the employee's regular pay effective the first day of the pay period following certification notification.

Pat Frank, MCN Community Research and Development Office Manager, receives the salary enhancement.

Frank grew up speaking the language, so it was natural to her when she took the test in 2008.

"They were asking for Creek speakers and I'm a Creek speaker, so I just assumed that a lot of the people that worked here could speak or understand the language," Frank said. "I got over there and there was just a hand full of us taking this test."

According to records obtained from HR, there are around 50 employees that receive the salary enhancement.

"We're losing our language… we do need to teach the younger ones," Frank said.

Any employee who believes they qualify may contact the language program to set up a testing date and time.

"We have people who can speak but they don't read or write," Deere said. "Right now the main thing is speaking, because we don't want to lose the language and we just try to hold on to what we can."

For more information contact the MCN Mvskoke Language Preservation Program at: 918-732-7724.

Grant awarded for Council House artifacts



MNN File Photo
The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Cultural Center and Archives department received a grant for expenses associated with housing and displaying the MCN Council House artifacts.

Giles shares department developments

Jessica McBride/*Editorial Assistant*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Cultural Center and Archives Department received a $49,995 grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services for the 2015 fiscal year.

CCA Special Projects Coordinator Chris Azbell stated that the funds will be used to purchase items specifically for the care and management of the MCN Council House artifacts.

"Directly for supplies, art hanging system, acid free boxes, acid free paper; everything that you can imagine that you need to care and preserve artifacts in a meaningful way," Azbell said.

Azbell stated that this was the first grant the department had applied for and was awarded.

"This is a very competitive process and it's not an easy thing to get," Azbell said. "It's a pretty good accomplishment."

According to the IMLS website, www.imls.gov/recipients/grantsearch.aspx, four Native American/Native Hawaiian Museum Services Program grants were awarded for the 2015 fiscal year to: MCN, Kaw Nation in Kaw City, Okla., Tonkawa Tribe in Tonkawa, Okla., and United Keetoowah Cherokee Council in Tahlequah, Okla.

Azbell said that the department will continue to apply for grants that meet the needs of the department.

CCA Interim Director Justin Giles stated that the supplies they purchase will be high grade.

"All this that we're getting through the grant will be up to the museum standard of storage or housing," Giles said.

In a press conference on the Council House lawn in Okmulgee Aug. 15, 2013, MCN Principal Chief George Tiger announced that the Council House artifacts would be returned to MCN and would not be sold at auction. A full account of this deal can be viewed in the Sept. 1, 2013 edition of the 'Muscogee Nation News' at: www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov/Pages/MNN/pdf/2013/sep012013.pdf.

In the Nov. 15, 2013 edition of the 'MNN,' Tiger stated that the artifacts were purchased for $225,000.

According to Giles, the artifacts are currently being stored at the MCN owned RiverWalk business development in Jenks, Okla.

"So the idea hopefully, is that now that we've gotten this grant, it's really showing that we need to have a spot; an actual structure space, whatever it may be, for these 3,000 pieces from the collection," Giles said.

Giles hopes that the department will be able to utilize space at RiverWalk to create a welcome center to display the artifacts.

"It's right there in Jenks. It's on an original allotment. It's now tribally owned," Giles said. "That would be my goal; my wish list."

According to Giles, until the department is able to secure a space to display the collection, some of the artifacts will be loaned to the Heard Museum in Phoenix for the Beautiful Games: American Indian Sport and Art exhibit that opens Dec. 20. Others may be displayed at the Woody Guthrie Center in Tulsa, Okla., in the next few months.

Giles will also travel Aug. 9 to Montgomery, Ala., to represent MCN for the bicentennial of the signing of the Treaty of Fort Jackson, which ceded around 20 million acres of ancestral land to create the state of Alabama and led to the removal of the Muscogee (Creek) people to the present state of Oklahoma.

"This is done through an invitation through the Department of the Interior, the National Parks Service; specifically, Horseshoe Bend National Military Park and also Fort Toulouse," Giles said. "They're having an event, which is really a symposium with some panelist and speakers."

CCA will also be traveling Sept. 21 to Washington, D.C., for the 10-year anniversary of the opening of the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian.

"More importantly, why we will be attending is that; our department was playing a role with the NMAI treaties exhibit, which will also be opening and premiering at the same time as the 10-year anniversary events," Giles said.

MCN delegates met with the NMAI team in February for the filming of personal stories about the removal period and oral history for the exhibit on Native American treaties.

Giles stated that the department would travel Nov. 14-17 to Washington, D.C., for the second Mvskoke Etvlwv festival, which was first hosted by NMAI for MCN in November 2012.

"For Native American Heritage Month, Muscogee Nation will be going back to the Smithsonian Nation Museum of the American Indian to do what we did two years ago," Giles said.

At the festival, Giles hopes to include Muscogee (Creek) artists and stompdance demonstrations. He also stated that 'This May Be The Last Time,' a film directed by Sterlin Harjo, would be shown and 'The Dawes Commission' play by Bob Hicks would be performed during the event.

Child sexual abuse prevention workshop held



MNN/Chelsie Rich
Linda Yeager, Clinical Director of Okmulgee-Okfuskee County Youth Services spoke about the impact of child sexual abuse during the Prevent Child Sexual Abuse Workshop July 29, at the Mound Building Auditorium in Okmulgee, Okla.

Programs work together to raise awareness

Chelsie Rich/*Project Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Family Violence Prevention Program in coordination with MCN Children and Family Services Department, MCN Department of Health and Okmulgee-Okfuskee County Youth Services hosted the Preventing Child Sexual Abuse workshop July 29, at the MCN Mound Building Auditorium in Okmulgee.

Over the past couple of years, FVPP assisted in court cases involving child sexual abuse that led to convictions.

Two of those convictions were given lifetime sentences.

"The definition of child sexual abuse is the exploitation of a child for the sexual gratification of an adult or significantly older person, and is called incest if it occurs between a child and any family member," said CFS Child Protection Worker Dawn Butler.

The purpose of the workshop was to educate parents, guardians, educators, youth service providers and community members about how and when to report child sexual abuse and what services are available for the child and their families.

"The reason we did the workshop is we wanted to make sure parents are aware of the conversations they should be having with their children in terms of unwanted touches," said FVPP Youth Advocate Mitzi Pope.

"The reason we did the workshop is we wanted to make sure parents are aware of the conversations they should be having with their children in terms of unwanted touches."

- MCN FVPP Youth Advocate Mitzi Pope

The workshop advised that anyone can be the victim of rape or sexual assault, but some are at more risk than others.

In January 2014, the White House Council on Women and Girls reported that nearly 50 percent of female sexual abuse survivors were raped before they were 18, and over 25 percent of male survivors were raped before they were 10-years-old.

"The most important thing I can share with you… is that we have to educate our children about sexual abuse and about touches that are OK and not OK," Butler said.

Linda Yeager, Clinical Director of Okmulgee-Okfuskee County Youth Services spoke about the impact of child sexual abuse.

"Sexual abuse affects every relationship that child is in… it affects the relationship with the parents; it affects the relationship with the perpetrator, whether that person is a family member or not," Yeager said. "It affects the relationships with people the same sex as the perpetrator… or the same body type, same smell or same age group."

The mission of FVPP is to provide advocacy and supportive services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking as well as community education and awareness in an effort to increase safety, achieve justice and promote healing for individuals, families and tribal communities.

For more information, contact the MCN Family Violence Prevention Program at: 918-732-7869.

CMN hosts College Connection Day



MNN/Amanda Rutland
College of the Muscogee Nation Student Success Center Counselor Jake Jackson and Coordinator Krystal Wind speak to students about the SSC Aug. 1, for College Connection Day at the CMN campus in Okmulgee, Okla.

Students learn about higher education opportunities

Amanda Rutland/*Media Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The College of the Muscogee Nation hosted College Connection Day Aug. 1, to equip students with financial aid information and educate them on course offerings.

CCD was a joint effort between CMN, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Employment and Training and the MCN Higher Education Administration.

This is the second time CMN held CCD. CMN Student Success Coordinator Krystal Wind said the event is about helping people further their education.

"We have invited other colleges and tech schools… to connect students to not only with our school, which we are a two-year school, but also four-year schools," Wind said. "We are trying to help our citizens get back into school; get their education, whether that is here with us at the tribal college or at another school."

Participants received information through booths and different classes.

HESF Resource Development Specialist Kryste Benge taught a class on applying for HESF scholarships and general tips.

Benge said she wanted students to feel at ease when applying.

"It can be long for students. So, something to make it easy for them to apply and take advantage of every opportunity out there," Benge said.

Benge said new scholarships are being added constantly. There are currently 16 scholarships offered, ranging from $500-$1,500.

CMN SSC Counselor Jake Jackson and Wind taught a class together. They spoke to students about the benefits of starting at a small college.

Jackson also explained to students what the SSC does.

"We do a lot to promote a positive atmosphere. During finals, we gave out donuts to all the students," Jackson said. "We try to encourage you to do well during finals week."

SSC offers more than strictly student activities. SSC also keeps track of student attendance as a way to curb student failure.

Jackson said they will contact other schools and other tribes if students need help.

"If you want to come here, we want to help you. We want to take you from step one to wherever you need to go; what you want to do. Hopefully, you will get an associate's here or come here and get prepared to transfer," Jackson said.

Wind said the main focus of CCD was to help people take the step towards higher education.

"We are just really trying to help them get their foot in the door in their area of interest," Wind said.

Wind said they hope to have CCD at least twice a year. The next CCD will be announced at a later date.



What cases are heard in MCN District Court?



MNN/Amanda Rutland
The ability of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court to assert its authority in the MCN jurisdiction was recognized by federal agencies after the Nation prevailed in the 1988 case: Muscogee (Creek) Nation v. Donald Hodel, Secretary of the Interior; heard in the U.S. Court of Appeals, District of Columbia Circuit.

Civil, criminal procedures explained

Amanda Rutland/*Media Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court, as it exists today, was established by the 1979 MCN Constitution and started hearing cases in 1982.

Certainly, the MCN District Court is different than non-tribal courts but the question arises; what is heard in tribal court?

Two judges preside over the cases based on type. Judge Gregory Bigler hears civil and criminal cases and Judge John Cripps hears family cases such as those involving adoption and termination of parental rights.

Civil Court

A series of U.S. Supreme Court cases have resulted in tribal courts having jurisdiction to hear civil cases involving their jurisdiction first.

A civil case typically settles a dispute between two parties such as those related to financial or domestic matters.

"If something arises in tribal territories, the district court of the nation's, Indian court would get the first shot to determine whether or not it is appropriate for this court," Bigler said.

Bigler's civil cases can be: small claims cases, wage garnishments and protective orders. While Cripps' cases tend to be: guardianships, divorces and cases dealing with children and family services.

The MCN Attorney General's Office works with the District Court in the children and family service cases.

"The Attorney General is the prime mover on the children and family services. They are the lawyers for them," Cripps said. "They appoint lawyers for folks that need them in the guardianships. Also, they appoint guardian ad litems; who are other lawyers to go out and check on them."

Guardian ad litems by definition are court appointed lawyers who protect the interests of infants, minors and those ruled mentally incompetent for the duration of the trial.

Cripps said GAL lawyers are necessary to ensure that children are placed in a safe environment.

Juries may be called for a custody case or if a party involved in the proceedings is in contempt of court; meaning the party has broken a court order. The juries consist of six people.

Criminal Court

A criminal case involves a person who is charged with violating or failing to observe a law set in place by a governing party within said party's jurisdiction.

While criminal cases heard in tribal court are typically limited to Native against Native or victimless crimes; a number of factors determine where criminal cases are heard.

"Most things that occur within the tribal territory would be in the tribal court first," Bigler said. "If it is a crime, then there is a series of facts which have to assessed to be determine whether or not the FBI and U.S. attorneys file a federal criminal action."

There are three federal courts within the state of Oklahoma: the northern, western and eastern districts. These courts are under the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Attorney General's Office handles federal prosecutions.

According to Bigler, transferring cases involving alleged criminal occurrences within tribal jurisdiction raises the concern that federal courts will decide not to prosecute.

"In general nationwide, the problem has been that it is hard to get federal prosecution for most crimes occurring in Indian Country," Bigler said. "The everyday kind of assault and battery, even sexual assaults sometimes don't get the time that we think, from the tribal perspective, should."

The Tribal Law and Order Act allows a maximum sentence of three years and $15,000 for a felony offense, but not to exceed nine years consecutively. The law stipulated that to impose this sentence, courts must provide a public defender; a right to jury and judges trained to practice law.

"Unless the feds prosecute, we do not have the same deterrent as occurs elsewhere," Bigler said.

When juries are needed, the jury pool comes from MCN Citizenship Board office. One exception that is in the works is the Violence Against Women Act.

In March 2013, Congress passed the Violence Against Women Act, which allowed grants tribes jurisdiction to try non-Native domestic violence offenders in their respective tribal courts. However, to be able to exercise this jurisdiction, the courts have to be able to provide a jury of peers for non-Natives.

There are different ideas about how to accomplish this task. This problem has to be solved before a tribe can move from Phase I of the VAWA Pilot Project (planning) to Phase II (applying for authorization to begin hearing cases).

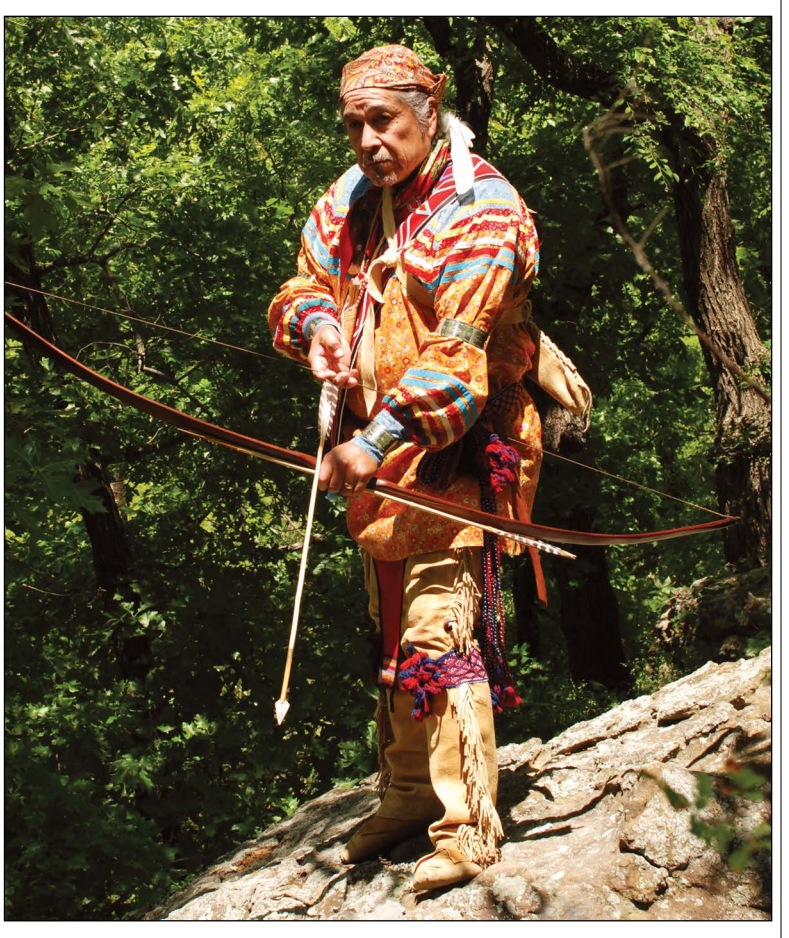
"This is the only instance really that at least the federal courts acknowledge our authority to assert criminal jurisdiction over non-Indian is under VAWA," Bigler said.

Bigler is hopeful that the Nation will be able to move into Phase II in the next two months.

New MCN WIC building open for services

MNN/Amanda Rutland
The new building for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Women, Infants and Children Program opened for service July 28 on the MCN Tribal Complex locatedw at U.S. Highway 75 and Oklahoma Loop 56 in Okmulgee, Okla.

Muscogee (Creek) traditionalist Mike Berryhill passes away



Submission
Muscogee (Creek) traditionalist Michael Berryhill passed away July 17 at the age of 71.

A 'legend' remembered

Amanda Rutland/*Media Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Michael Barnitz Berryhill passed away July 17, at the age of 71. Berryhill was born Dec. 14, 1942 to Thomas Jefferson Berryhill and Blanche Pakoska Bland.

Berryhill was a member of the Cussetah Tribal Town and Alligator Clan. He served in the 82nd Airborne Division of the U.S. Army and in the Mvskoke Nation Honor Guard.

He was best known for traditional bow making and his activity with the Muscogee (Creek) Bow Shooters Society that he founded in 2004.

In an interview for the 2007 documentary 'Cvkotakse Hayv' (Bow Maker), Berryhill talks about the ties between his clan and his craft.

"It fell into almost being natural; that an alligator clan, which is a warrior clan, would know about the weapons and how to make them," Berryhill said.

Current MCBSS leader John Brown said that Berryhill had a big impact on his life and found good in every person.

"He saw a need and saw that there were only a few people doing it; and that was his vision to keep it alive," Brown said.

Berryhill's grandfather, Joseph Hill Berryhill, first introduced him to bows as a child.

"My grandpa, Joseph Hill Berryhill was probably my mentor about this whole thing. He made my first bow for me when I believe I was about eight-years-old and my brother was 10," Berryhill said.

Berryhill did not delve fully into bow making until he befriended a man selling traditional bows at the Seminole Nation Days festival.

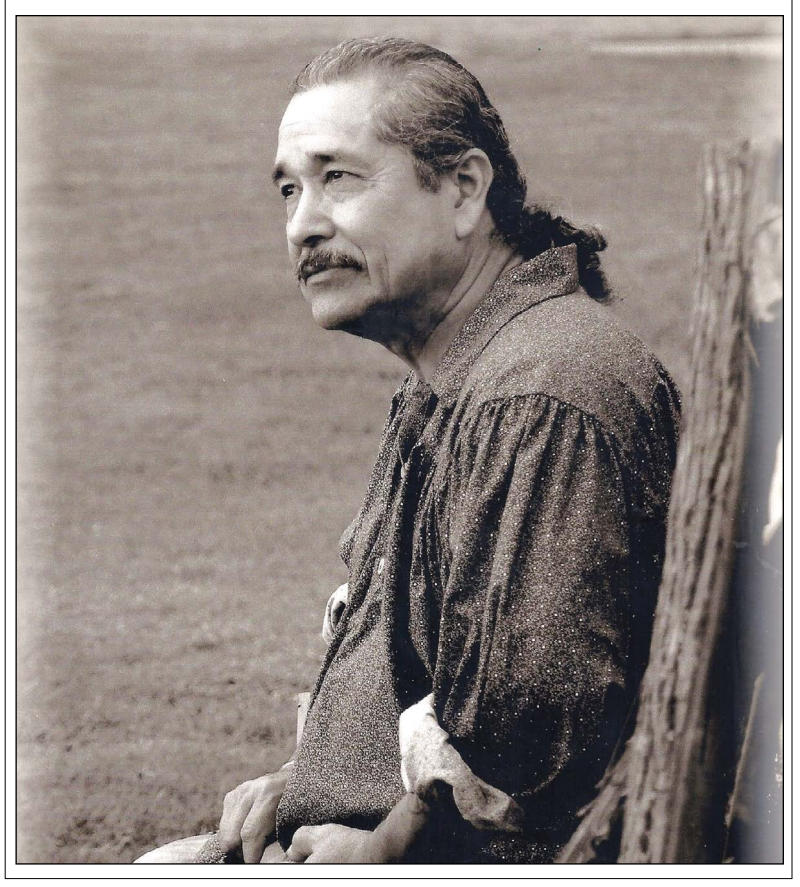
"In your youth, a lot of things kind of pull you away from your culture...I didn't get to where I was involved in my culture again until I was about 50-years-old." Berryhill said.

Because of his skill as a bow maker, Berryhill was recognized by MCN as a 'Living Legend' in 2009 and acknowledged as a traditional expert May 2, 2007 when MCN National Council Amendment 07-101 was signed into law, which also named him member of the MCN Museum, Cultural Center and Archives Oversight Committee.

His daughter, Stephanie Berryhill said one of her most memorable moments with Michael was after her son Eco Barnett won second place at this year's youth cornstalk shoot June 28 during the MCN Festival. This was Barnett's first time to compete.

"He was just so excited and happy that his grandson had received second place. I think for him, even though my son hadn't participated in the bow shoot, that my son had an aptitude for shooting and that he had listened to his instruction," Stephanie said.

Berryhill was interred at the Berryhill-Kanard Family Cemetery.



MCN employees take a dive



Dive Team seeks improvement through training

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

COOKSON, Okla. — Members of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthorse Police Department and Emergency Response Team attended training July 25-27 at Lake Tenkiller in Cookson for open water dive certification and rescue diving.

Certain situations may require diving certification, such as recovering a body or vehicle underwater.

"Not all situations happen on land," MCN Emergency Management Supervisor James Nichols said. "Some things can happen in the water and underwater and we, as a team need to be ready and prepared for when that happens."

The first day of training for open-water certification helped participants get use to the water and their equipment.

Some training occurred in the pool on the first day. A majority of training on the second and third day was spent in the pool or out in the waters at Lake Tenkiller.

"They get use to the equipment and the water," Nichols said. "It is more of a mental issue when you get underwater and you are diving with your scuba gear on."

Being open water dive certified is a big step for some of the members of the team, but training does not stop there.

Three members of the Dive Team were certified for rescue diving.

"We have three members that has been on the dive team since its inception and are continually training and always learning something new in the water," Nichols said. "We want to update our skills so we can advance to the next level which is why we took part in the rescue diving training."

Rescue diving is more advanced than open water diving.

With this training, divers are taught how to rescue themselves and other divers, including those who are experiencing problems with their equipment or are trapped underwater.

"There is a lot of classroom time and re-enacting certain rescue situations, just in case of if that were to happen in real life situations," Nichols said.

The training never stops for the MCN Dive Team, regardless of the season.

"Whether or not it is the summer months, we are constantly training," Nichols said. "Whether it is in the pool or in the lake. We are doing everything possible to get better and more acquainted with the water and our equipment."

MCN Lighthorse Captain Dennis Northcross is pleased by the steps that the dive team has taken to better themselves.

"We do not consider ourselves to be two different teams," Northcross said. "We are one team and the Lighthorse Department knows if there are certain situations, that we can trust the Emergency Response Team to do just as a great a job if they need to be out there helping us."

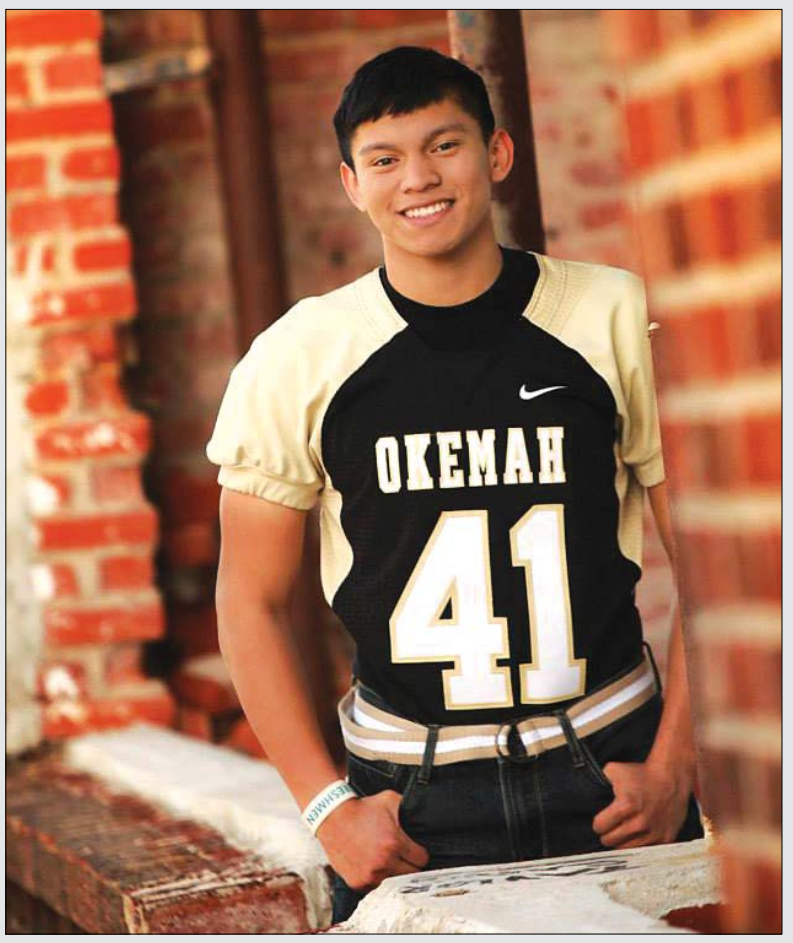
"They get use to the equipment and the water. It is more of a mental issue when you get underwater and you are diving with your scuba gear on."

- MCN EMT James Nichols

The MCN Dive Team members that participated in the Open Water Training included: Lighthorse Officers Euclid DeLaune and Stanley Johnson and ERT members Dewey Horse and Darren DeLaune.

The MCN Dive Team members that participated in the Rescue Dive Training included: Lighthorse Officer Theran Richards and ERT members James Nichols and Rodney Josie.

Jimboy competes in Native All-Star Football Classic



Submission

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Marcus Jimboy was selected to play at the Native Revision Native All-Star Football Classic July 5, at University of Texas-Arlington Maverick Stadium in Arlington, Texas.

Muscogee (Creek) citizen finishes high school athletic career

Darren DeLaune/*Reporter*

OKEMAH, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Marcus Jimboy had an opportunity to play on the gridiron and suit up for the Native Revision Native All-Star Football Classic July 5, at University of Texas-Arlington Maverick Stadium in Arlington, Texas.

Jimboy, 18, was one of the top athletes throughout the U.S. selected to play in the football classic. Participating players came from: Oklahoma, Mississippi, Arizona and Washington.

"It was a great experience and I am glad I was selected," Jimboy said. "This was the way to finish out my high school career."

Jimboy felt he needed to get out there, show why he was selected and that he belonged on one of the teams.

"I wanted to play as soon as I got there," Jimboy said. "It wasn't being nervous. It was more anxious and ready to go."

The athletes went through a series of drills before they were put on a team. Scouts and coaches observed the players through the workouts.

"When we got to camp, they put us through a lot of workouts," Jimboy said. "It was like a mini-combine. They wanted to see how we did before they put us onto teams."

Two teams were formed, the Red Hawks and Blue Eagles.

Jimboy was chosen for the Red Hawks. During the game, he played running back and outside linebacker, two positions that were familiar to him throughout his career at Okemah.

The game was a nail-biter, but the Red Hawks pulled out a one-point win with a final score of 26-25.

"Everyone says I did great but I always believe I could do better," Jimboy said. "We all did everything to help get our team the victory. I was happy about that than what I did individually."

Jimboy said there was not a big difference from this game and the games he played during his senior season. The only difference was a lot more big plays than what he was use to seeing.

"It was a lot faster and more and more big plays," Jimboy said. "We had the lead and they came back, but we held on for the victory."

Jimboy enjoyed his football career and will miss high school football.

"I will miss everything about it," Jimboy said. "Practicing with my friends, Friday nights and hearing the roar of the crowds when you win the games."

Jimboy plans to travel east to pursue a major in health and science at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Okla.

"I want to become a pediatrician," Jimboy said. "I always like helping out kids and what better way to do it than by being a pediatrician."

Although Jimboy said he will not play football his first year at NSU, he knows that football is still in his blood.

"I want to get everything situated my first year at NSU," Jimboy said. "My second year, I plan on trying out for the football team and playing as well."

Marcus Jimboy is the son of Allison Berryhill and Ray Jimboy. He is a member of the Eco (Deer) Clan and Greenleaf Tribal Town.

Muscogee (Creek) citizen plays at Carnegie Hall



Submission

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Meisha Floyd played with the Broken Arrow High School Fine Arts Department Wind Ensemble April 20 at Carnegie Hall in New York City.

Floyd performs with Broken Arrow High School

Amanda Rutland/*Media Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Recent Broken Arrow High School graduate and Muscogee (Creek) citizen Meisha Floyd performed with the BAHS Fine Arts Department Wind Ensemble April 20 at Carnegie Hall in New York City for Easter.

Floyd said that playing at Carnegie Hall was different from other locations she had performed at in the past.

"The stage's acoustics are unlike anything you can hear anywhere else," Floyd said. "Once we were there on the stage we felt so accomplished. We finally made it."

Floyd's journey to Carnegie Hall began at the end of her junior year of high school. BAHS only allowed top performers to attend. Auditions were held for choir and orchestra.

Floyd played the bassoon and contrabassoon in the wind ensemble.

With approximately 275 students traveling, Floyd said it required a lot of fundraising.

"At all of our football games, we had giant buckets they would pass around during half-time to help raise money for the trip," Floyd said. "And we could go get sponsorships from the different partners in education that we have around town."

BAHS alumni Kristin Chenoweth conducted a masters performance class March 17 and donated all proceeds of that evening to the BAHS FAD.

"It was like $20,000-$30,000 that we raised (that night)," Floyd said.

Floyd's five-day New York experience began April 17. While in New York City, Floyd toured the Sept. 11 Memorial, the Empire State Building and enjoyed two Broadway shows.

The BAHS FAD performance began at 2 p.m. April 20, and was broken up into three acts. Act I highlighted the wind ensemble, Act II featured the choir and orchestra and Act III featured the full BAHS FAD performing music from the play 'Oklahoma.'

Chenoweth made a surprise appearance to direct Act III.

After the performance, everyone gathered outside Carnegie Hall to meet family members and local attendees.

Floyd said her favorite moment of the trip was a dinner cruise after the performance. While sailing the New York Harbor, they saw the Statue of Liberty at sunset.

Floyd said it was beautiful.

"It was really cool because we worked so hard and this was like just a giant party for all of us," Floyd said.

Citizen expresses life through artwork



MNN/Chelsie Rich
Contemporary Native artist, Tony Tiger works on his artwork in his home studio in Tahlequah, Okla.

Tiger uses life experiences for inspiration

Chelsie Rich/*Project Specialist*

TAHLEQUAH, Okla. —Contemporary Native artist Tony Tiger expresses the spirit and experiences of life through his artwork.

Tiger was born in Los Angeles in 1964 where he and his family lived for a few years.

They then returned to Shawnee, Okla., where Tiger grew up on his family's land for a couple of years.

Tiger's father was a pastor, so soon they packed up again and headed to North Dakota to live on the Standing Rock Reservation.

"But that's where I think I really began to see and think about artwork," Tiger said.

Tiger spoke about feeling like an outsider and being treated differently while on the reservation.

"They had some Native programs there that dealt with culture and what you thought about culture and what they thought about culture. So I began to look at Native art," Tiger said.

After leaving the reservation, Tiger returned to Shawnee and while in high school, began to look closer into the arts.

"I wasn't a natural at it at first. I liked the idea of being an artist," Tiger said.

After high school, Tiger went to college but was not ready to continue his education, so he started traveling after the first semester.

Tiger then got married and decided to return to school.

Tiger earned an Associate of Arts from Seminole State College in Seminole, Okla., then went on to Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Okla.

Tiger's father passed away while he was studying at OSU, so he took time off from school and became a youth minister for a traveling Christian non-profit organization that does youth outreach to Native people on reservations.

"I did that for a few years then wondered how close I was to finishing my degree," Tiger said.

Tiger returned to OSU and finished a Bachelor of Fine Arts and later earned a Master of Fine Arts from the University of Oklahoma in Norman, Okla.

Tiger is currently the Director of Art and Assistant Art Professor at Bacone College in Muskogee, Okla., and lives in Tahlequah, Okla.

Tiger's work includes painting, mixed media, photographs and printmaking.

"The contemporary Native artist, what's important about our work now is that we are creating work that speaks to our time…what's going on now," Tiger said.

Tiger's artwork consists of layers upon layers of paint with texture, imagery and bold colors.

"I also combined both; some of the geometrics that represent Seminole and Creek design work, then I'll also incorporate some of the woodland designs that represent my Sac and Fox heritage," Tiger said.

The subject matter and content of his work is taken from his personal beliefs, faith, culture, as well as history and social observation and interaction.

"I WASN'T A NATURAL AT IT AT FIRST. I LIKED THE IDEA OF BEING AN ARTIST,"

- MUSCOGEE (CREEK) ARTIST TONY TIGER

"That all comes from the idea of studying and really thinking about what I'm doing and what it represents," Tiger said. "And then exploring, so I'm constantly looking for something new."

Tiger's artwork is representative of his own life and experiences, but it also allows viewers to have their own interpretations.

Tiger has exhibited his artwork throughout the US and his artwork can be found in museum collections, as well as many private collections.

Tiger is a curator of art exhibits and a member of the Southeastern Indian Artist Association.

Tiger is an enrolled citizen of the Sac and Fox Nation, and of Muscogee (Creek) and Seminole descent.

Running program promotes active lifestyle

Employees use opportunity to get healthy

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation offers many programs to try and keep citizens and employees healthy.

The MCN Emergency Response Team started a running program July 21 and despite the hot weather, over 30 employees signed up for the program.

"We have had a great turnout for our running program," Emergency Management Supervisor James Nichols said. "A lot of people want to get healthy and are willing to do what it takes to get that positive change to healthy living."

The running program was originally designed for ERT members but Nichols wanted all employees to be able to take part in the program.

"Our guys go through a lot of training and have to stay healthy for whatever situations that our team can get called out for," Nichols said. "This was a way to not only get our guys involved but also to get the employees here involved also."

There are three different programs: walkers, beginning runners and advanced runners. Participants will go through a 12-week session for their individual program.

"We want to make sure that we can have a goal set for everyone that is wanting to participate," Nichols said. "There will be 5Ks, 10Ks, 15Ks and half-marathons that are coming up in the near future and that is a goal for some of the participants here. They want to finish one of these competitions or get a better time."

Nichols feels that the program helps participants achieve a goal and get a jumpstart on a healthy lifestyle.

"Our lifestyles now shows a lot of people that are not healthy, overweight and obese," Nichols said. "Our goal is to change lifestyles for the better; get healthy and get active."

Participant Lucy Tiger loves the support that she gets from Nichols and her co-workers.

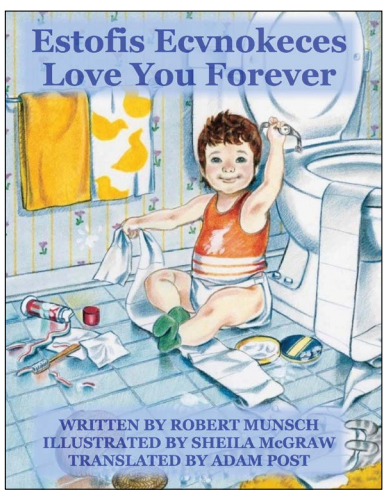
"I have a wedding coming up here very soon," Tiger said. "I want to start my new life with a healthy lifestyle and this running program is one of the ways to do it. Plus, all of us working together shows that we can push each other to a positive and healthy way of living."

The running program meets every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 5:15 p.m. at the MCN Tribal Complex in Okmulgee behind the Lighthorse Police Department building at the walking track.

Another group meets at the same days and time at the Okemah Armory in Okemah, Okla.

For more information about the program contact James Nichols at: 918-732-7891.

OSU student translates book into Mvskoke language



Class project becomes e-book

Amanda Rutland/*Media Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The classic children's book 'Love You Forever' by Robert Munsch has been translated into the Mvskoke language. Oklahoma State University student Adam Post translated the book in his Mvskoke language class for his final project during the summer 2013 semester.

Post said he chose this book to translate because his Muscogee (Creek) fiancée Hannah Barnett heard it often as a child.

"I translated that book because it was my fiancee's favorite book that she grew up reading," Post said.

After the translation was finished, Post asked his Mvskoke language instructors Rosemary Maxey and Ted Isham to edit the text. Maxey also provided the narration for the audio portion of the e-book.

Once the translation and illustration rights had been secured, Post self-published his translation as an e-book through Apple iBooks. Post said it has taken almost a year from translation to the July 15 release of the electronic publication.

"Since I have the rights now; I am pretty good with electronics; and especially Apple and iBooks," Post said. "I decided to publish it myself in e-book format."

Post had originally wanted to offer the English text with the Mvskoke translation; however, that was not possible.

"Whenever I was going through the copyright process and getting the rights for the translation registration, they would not allow me to include the English text in the book," Post said. "Because that would take away from their sales and revenue."

Post has no plans to translate any other books due to the level of difficulty involved.

"I had to work really hard with the professors. They helped me out a lot. I don't think it would be very accurate if I tried it again with a different book," Post said.

Post said feedback has been positive but several people who want to read it do not have access to iBooks.

"My main goal is to get it out to as many people as possible," Post said.

As for printed copies, Post is still looking for a publisher. 'Love You Forever' in Mvskoke is available through the iBooks/iTunes store for iPad and Apple computer systems. It is not currently available for iPhone.

For more information, contact Adam Post at: Adam.Post@okstate.edu.





OBITUARIES

ROBERT PERRY BEAVER



MORRIS, Okla. — Robert Perry Beaver, 75, of Morris passed away July 11, 2014 at his home.

Perry was born Dec. 13, 1938 in Muskogee, Okla., to John and Della Mae Fox Beaver. He graduated from Morris High School and attended Murray State College where he earned All American athletic honors. He then played football at the University of Louisiana-Monroe where he also earned All American athletic honors before being drafted to play for the Green Bay Packers under legendary Coach Vince Lombardi. On March 30, 1968, he married Mariam Ruth Bruner and they made their home in Jenks, Okla. He earned his Masters of Education from Northeastern State University and became an educator with Jenks Public School for 25 years. While at Jenks, he worked his way up to head coach of the football program, leading the team to its first-ever two state championships.

Perry also served his tribe, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, for many years where he sat as a representative on the National Council before being elected Second Chief and later Principal Chief of the Nation from 1996-2003. He retired in 2004.

He has been recognized nationwide for his athletic talent, outstanding coaching and his contributions to the Native community as well as the local community. Perry was inducted into Murray State Athletic Hall of Fame, University of Louisiana-Monroe Athletic Hall of Fame, Oklahoma Coaches Association Hall of Fame and the American Indian Athletic Hall of Fame. He was a member of the Freemasons and Shriners. He was a member of Big Cussetah Indian United Methodist Church in Morris. He enjoyed spending time with family and friends laughing and telling stories.

Perry is survived by: his wife Mariam of 46 years; children, Brant Robb Beaver, Brent B. Beaver, Robin L. Beaver and Del Beaver and his wife Rhonda K.; grandchildren, Isaiah C. Lowe, Kynnedi Gibson and Olivia K. Beaver; siblings, Pete Beaver and wife Bridget, Letha Mae Rutherford and husband Frank, Miley Hargis and husband Gene, Cora Sue Berryhill, Jean Froman, Hanna Beaver and Sally Beth Wittman and husband Royce and numerous nieces, nephews, family and friends.

He is preceded in death by his parents, John and Della Mae Fox Beaver and brothers John and Oscar Beaver.

Visitation was July 14 at Jackson Funeral Home in Okmulgee, Okla. Funeral services were at First Baptist Church in Okmulgee, Okla., July 15 with Rev. Newman Frank officiating. Burial followed at Big Cussetah Indian United Methodist Church Cemetery.

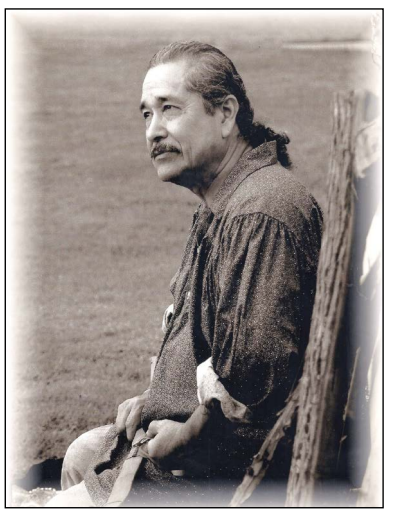
In lieu of flowers, the family has requested memorial donations be made to Big Cussetah Building Fund, 16210 N. 270 Rd, Okmulgee, OK 74447.

Pallbearers are: John M. Beaver, Anderson Berryhill III, Kyle Wittman, Drew Wittman, Lance Stephens, Shannon Stephens, Harold Gossman and Buddy Beaver.

Services are under the Jackson Funeral Home and Crematory in Okmulgee.

Friends may send their condolences to: www.jacksonfhand-crematory.com/.

MICHAEL BERRYHILL



SCHULTER, Okla. — Michael Barnitz Berryhill died July 17, 2014 at his home near Schulter. He was born Dec. 14, 1942 at W.W. Hastings Indian Hospital in Tahlequah, Okla., to Thomas Jefferson and Blanche Pakoska Bland Berryhill.

Mike belonged to the Alligator Clan and Cussetah Tribal Town and was the son of the Wind Clan and Deep Fork Eufaula Tribal Town. He was enrolled as a full-blood member of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

He was raised on the allotment of his grandmother, Annie Kanard Berryhill, in Wilson Community, Okmulgee County. It was there that he took solace in a close connection with the natural world where he grew up hunting and exploring the creeks.

Mike was a member of Honey Creek Methodist Church; his formative years were spent attending Honey Creek and several other Methodist churches in the area.

He attended Wilson School and graduated from high school at Haskell Institute. He enlisted in the U.S. Army where he was a trained medic of the 82nd Airborne Division.

He married Jo Ann Skaggs in 1964 and two daughters were born to this union. Mike married Julia Ann Selvidge of Dustin in 1976 in Okmulgee and remained married to her until his death.

He worked as a machinist at Braden Carco Gearmatic Winch in Okmulgee and retired after 30 years of service.

The most influential person in his life was his grandfather, Joseph Hill Berryhill. When Mike was a boy, the elder Berryhill took him to the creek on the family home place.

His grandfather climbed a tall bois d'arc tree and cut two straight limbs from which he crafted two small long bows -- one for Mike and one for his eldest brother.

This act, along with the loving attention, kind patience and tribal stories told to him by his grandfather had a lasting effect on Mike's values and the direction of his life nearly 40 years later.

He was gravely concerned about the continuing loss of Mvskoke language, beliefs and ways of life. Having a military background, he was interested in the warrior society and weaponry of the historic Creek Confederacy. Mike's interest became a passion that led a revival for Mvskoke long bow culture.

He spent the last 25 years spearheading efforts to revitalize Mvskoke long bow-making. After retiring he devoted the majority of his time to long bow revitalization work.

This effort included the reintroduction of ways related to cutting, gathering and preparing natural resources for long bow materials. He actively exercised his right, as a Muscogee (Creek) citizen, to cut bois d'arc hard woods and gather other natural resources on tribal trust lands. Mike did not view this opportunity as an entitlement but a privilege.

In 2004 he formed Cvkotakse Seccvlke (Mvskoke Bow Shooters Society) from a core group of his bow-making students. In addition to creating skilled tribal bow makers, the society supports the reintroduction of regular social activity surrounding cornstalk shoots that are accessible to everyone.

He was instrumental in advocating for MCN legislation that designates the west grounds of the tribal capitol for cultural use.

In 2007, Mike was named as a 'traditional expert' in the MCN tribal statute that created a committee charged with developing a master plan for a tribal museum.

In 2009 he was bestowed the honor of 'Living Legend' for his efforts to revitalize tribal long bow culture under the administration of former MCN Principal Chief A.D. Ellis.

Mike's artisanship as a bowyer drew the attention of newspaper and magazine journalists who wrote stories about his long bow work. He is also the subject of a feature-length documentary entitled 'Cvkotakse Hayv' (Bow Maker) that was produced with the assistance of Judge Patrick Moore -- Mike's good friend and one of the biggest supporters of his long bow revitalization efforts.

He was skilled at making river cane arrows and numerous other items associated with historic Mvskoke and primitive Mississippian era material culture. Mike was one of the few American Indian people in Oklahoma that possessed the skills to process brain-tanned deer hides.

One of Mike's long bows is currently being used in British competition and word is that it is out-performing English long bows.

He was very knowledgeable about tribal oral history as well as the historic Mvskoke period. He was an avid reader of classic texts in southeastern tribal history and anthropology.

As a Christian, he fed his spirit through the study of scripture and he also enjoyed reading Christian literature.

Mike was also a past member of the Mvskoke Nation Honor Guard.

He is preceded in death by: his parents; aunt, Pauline Paskoska Bland Billy; brothers, Thomas Paul Berryhill and Perry Lee Berryhill and stepson, Dewayne Bean.

Mike is survived by: his wife, Julia, of the home; daughter and son-in-law, Dr. Elise and Thomas Taylor of Broken Arrow; daughter, Stephanie Berryhill of Henryetta; sister and brother-in-law, Rita and Barton Williams of Wilson Community; brother and sister-in-law, Elliott and Renee Berryhill of Colorado Springs, Colo.; stepsons, Dewight Bean of Glenpool and Deon Bean of Tulsa; and grandchildren, Eco Barnett and Emily Fixico of Henryetta and Thomas and Joseph Taylor of Broken Arrow along with numerous nieces and nephews.

Pallbearers are: Mark Berryhill, Michael 'Little Mike' Berryhill, Shawn Williams, Aaron Berryhill and Eco Barnett.

Honorary pallbearers are: Barton Williams, Lonnie Hamilton, Lt. Col. Mike Farrell, Judge Patrick Moore, Thomas Taylor and members of Cvkotakse Seccvlke.

Funeral services for Mike Berryhill were officiated by John Stevenson and held July 21 at Integrity Funeral Service in Henryetta. Wake services were held July 20 at Integrity Funeral Service.

He will be laid to rest at Berryhill-Kanard Family Cemetery where his connection with the natural world first began.

RIPLEY BERRYHILL

TULSA, Okla. — Ripley (Sonny) Berryhill was born June 2, 1939 in Okemah, Okla., to Roley Berryhill and Sarah Sawyer Berryhill and passed from this life July 9, 2014 in Tulsa at the age of 75.

Mr. Berryhill was raised in Hughes County near Bearden, Okla. He attended the Lone Oak Elementary School and was a graduate of Butner High School. While in high school he was an excellent athlete excelling especially in baseball. Following graduation, he honorably served his country in the U.S. Army.

As an adult, he did construction work and was a truck driver. Sonny had resided in Holdenville since about 1981. He loved to watch sports, whether live or on television. He was a long time member of the Thlopthlocco Methodist Church.

He was preceded in death by: his parents, a sister Nettie Ruth Berryhill and one who he raised as his son, Thomas Fixico.

Survivors include: brothers, Robert Berryhill and wife Barbara of Wewoka, Okla.,

Chubby Berryhill and wife Shirley of Wetumka, Okla., and Joe Lee Berryhill of Oklahoma

City; sister Peggy Johnson of Oklahoma City; a niece who was raised with him as a sister, Linda Berryhill of Holdenville, Okla.; those who he raised as his own children,

Robert Fixico, Jr. and Yavonda Garcia of Oklahoma City and their children (who called him Pawpaw) Derek, Jessica, Jacob, Camryn, Conner, Caden, and Caled.

Funeral services were July 12 at the Springfield United Methodist Church near Okemah with Rev. Clarence Yaholar officiating.

Pallbearers are: Eugene Berryhill, Larry Berryhill, Terry Johnson, Chris Wahpepah, Conner Fixico, Derek Garcia and Kyle Berryhill. Interment was in the Thlopthlocco Cemetery under the direction of Williamsen-Spradlin Funeral Home of Wetumka.

MARVIN HOLMAN



TULSA, Okla. — Marvin L. Holman, a longtime resident of Henryetta, Okla., passed from this life on July 12, 2014 in Tulsa at the age of 48. Marvin was born on Aug. 12, 1965 in Henryetta to Jim Holman and Maggie Noblin Holman.

Marvin grew up in the Henryetta area and attended school at Graham and Dustin Public Schools. Marvin worked for approximately eight years for Jack Young Asphalt Company as a heavy equipment operator building roads.

He also spent a number of years in the oil field where he worked in various capacities as a roughneck.

In his younger years, he enjoyed bull riding. Marvin loved to fish and garden. He thoroughly enjoyed western movies, especially those with John Wayne and Clint Eastwood. But most of all, he loved spending time with his family and friends. Marvin was married to Donna Barnett January 18, 2013 in Dewar, Okla., and they remained married until his death.

Marvin is preceded in death by: his father, Jim Holman; sisters, Wanda Faye Holman and Flora Lee Holman and brothers, Jack, Jimmy and Leonard Holman.

He is survived by: his wife Donna of the home in Henryetta; mother, Maggie Holman of Henryetta; daughters, Amy Plunkett and husband Jeff of Muskogee and April Barnett and Daisy Harrington of the home; sisters, J.J. Eubanks and husband Ed of Wilson, Sharon Camp and husband Dub of McAlester and Dorothy Harrier of Eufaula; brothers, Bob Holman and wife Kim of Henryetta, Tom Holman and wife Penny of Dewar, Jasper Boen and Virginia Rush of Okmulgee and Donnie Holman of Porum; granddaughter, Alivia Plunkett of Muskogee; faithful hound "Son," numerous nieces, nephews and other extended family and many good friends.

A memorial service for Marvin was held July 17 at Integrity Chapel, 410 E. Trudgeon, Henryetta under the direction of Integrity Funeral Service.

Honorary pallbearers are: Kenny Rhine, Jason Rhine, Larry Cummings, Steve Lawson, Ed Eubanks and Tyson Fuqua.

An online guestbook is available at: www.integrityfuneralservice.com.

ANGELUS JONES



Muscogee (Creek) Nation Community and Tribal Events

OBITS CONTINUED

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Angelus Faye Jones, a former resident of Okmulgee, passed away Thursday, July 10, 2014 at the age of 52. She was born June 7, 1962 to Thompson White and Angelus Pigeon in Dallas.

She was preceded in death by her sister, Brenda Garcia.

Survivors include: her father, Thompson White; mother, Angelus Pigeon; children, Stella Ruttman, Sheena Blitch, Stephen White, Nikita Litle, Cody Coon, Loper Yahola Bear Jones and China Jones; sisters, Annette, Connie, Ave Jo, Dian, Doris, Julie and Sharon; brothers, Ernest, Andy and Steven; 16 grandchildren and numerous other relatives and friends.

Funeral Services were held Wednesday, July 16 at the Tallahassee Indian Methodist Church in Okmulgee with Rev. David Dunson officiating. Burial followed the service at the Tallahassee Indian Cemetery under the direction of the Jackson Funeral Home and Crematory in Okmulgee.

Pallbearers are Stephen White, Loper Yahola Bear Jones, Ernest White, Andrew White, Aaron Carson and Kenneth Grogan.

Honorary Pallbearer is Loper Jones.

Friends may send their condolences to: www.jacksonfhandcrematory.com.

IRENE PARKINSON



OKMULGEE, Okla. — Irene Felix Parkinson was born to James and Salo "Sarah" Felix on Wednesday August 27,1919. She was the oldest of seven children.

She attended Mountain Creek School and Kellyville High School. In high school she played basketball on an all female team. She married Noah Parkinson and had two daughters, Joye Beth in 1947 and Darlene in 1949. She worked at Douglas Aircraft and Woolsworth in her early years and later at the Sapulpa Walmart and Helping Hands. She was the oldest member of the Euchee Tribe.

She is preceded in death by: her brothers, James Felix Jr. and Amos Felix; sisters, Bessie Cahwee, Mary Alexander and Lena Walker; husband Noah Parkinson and daughter Darlene Tate.

She had three grandchildren, James Parkinson, Jennifer Handsel and John Tate Jr.; great-grandchildren, Evan Lane, Ashley Lane, Nathan Stites, Jasien Susanavas, Emma Parkinson and Noah Q. Handsel; a daughter, Joye Beth Reynolds; sister, Sara Whinery and numerous nieces and nephews.

A wake service was held June 25 at Smith Funeral Chapel, 1208 S. Main St., Sapulpa, OK. Funeral services were held June 26 at Pickett Chapel, Sapulpa, OK.

Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Smith Funeral Home, 1208 S. Main St., Sapulpa, OK.

MCN citizenship IDs receive approval for state programs

Media Release

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Control Approval – The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Citizenship ID was approved by the OBNDD for use in all Oklahoma pharmacies. In support of this approval, the Citizenship Office has added a secondary barcode to the back of the ID card so that data entry at the pharmacies will be quicker with reduced errors. Citizenship ID cards must include a photo for them to be recognized as a valid ID by the state.

Oklahoma Department of Public Safety Driver License Services Approval – The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Citizenship ID was approved by the OKDPS Driver License Service center as a valid secondary form of identification when applying for a driver's license or identification card. With the addition of The Muscogee (Creek) Nation, only eight Oklahoma tribes have been added to the approved list. Tribal citizens will still need a primary identification (State issued birth certificate, U. S. passport, or certificate of birth abroad) in order to be processed for any original Oklahoma Driver License or Oklahoma Identification Card. Citizenship ID cards must include a photo for them to be recognized as a valid ID by the state.

Veterans ID Cards – The MCN Citizenship Office is currently working on veteran ID cards. All veteran cards will require approval through Veteran Affairs. The Citizenship Office will make another announcement when the Veteran cards are available.

MCN Bar Association elections set for Aug. 18

Media Release

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Bar Association meeting and officer elections are set for 6 p.m., Aug. 18 at the MCN Mound Building Auditorium in Okmulgee.

MCNBA members must be in good standing and physically present at the meeting to nominate or vote. Proxy voting will not be accepted.

Nominations will be taken for three officer positions: president, vice-president and secretary/treasurer.

Officers elected will serve a one-year term beginning Aug. 18. Notice of the election results will be published in the 'Muscogee Nation News' and online at: www.mcnbar.org.

For more information call: 918-758-1439.

Editor

MVTO

We, the family of Ken Taylor would like to thank the Muscogee (Creek) Nation for the financial assistance they provided to our family to help with funeral expenses for Ken and give a special thanks to Tamara with the Social Services Department for her empathy and diligence in this matter. We are very appreciative. Mvto!

—Ken Taylor Family, Luann, Kenny, Kris, Rob, Renea, Adrienne, Timothy

Benefit tournament set for Sept. 19

CHECOTAH, Okla. — The first annual Swing for Education Benefit Golf Tournament hosted by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Scholarship Foundation is set for Sept. 19 at Fountainhead Golf Course near Checotah.

For more information call: 918-732-7754.

MVTO

ANAHEIM, Calif. — The California Muscogee (Creek) Association would like to say a brief thank you to all Oklahoma based Muscogee (Creek) citizens who took the time and effort to join the California citizens at their annual gathering. Your efforts and talents were appreciated and much good was accomplished. You even managed to bring some rain to our drought ravished counties here in Southern California. Mvto!

— CMCA Board Members

TCIC Elections set for Sept. 18

TULSA, Okla. — The Tulsa Creek Indian Community has set an election for the chairperson, secretary, treasurer and sergeant-at-arms board positions for Sept. 18 from 6-8 p.m.

For more information contact Roman Powell at: 918-695-2781.

DCIC Elections set for September

BEGGS, Okla. — The Duck Creek Indian Community elections are scheduled for the September community meeting and letters of intent for running are due Aug. 30.

The following offices are open: chairman, vice-chair, secretary and treasurer.

List of upcoming MNN deadlines

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The following is a list of upcoming deadlines to submit content for the 'Muscogee Nation News.'

Sept. 1 — Aug. 22

Sept. 15 — Sept. 5

Oct. 1 — Sept. 23

Oct. 15 — Oct. 7

Nov. 1 — Oct. 24

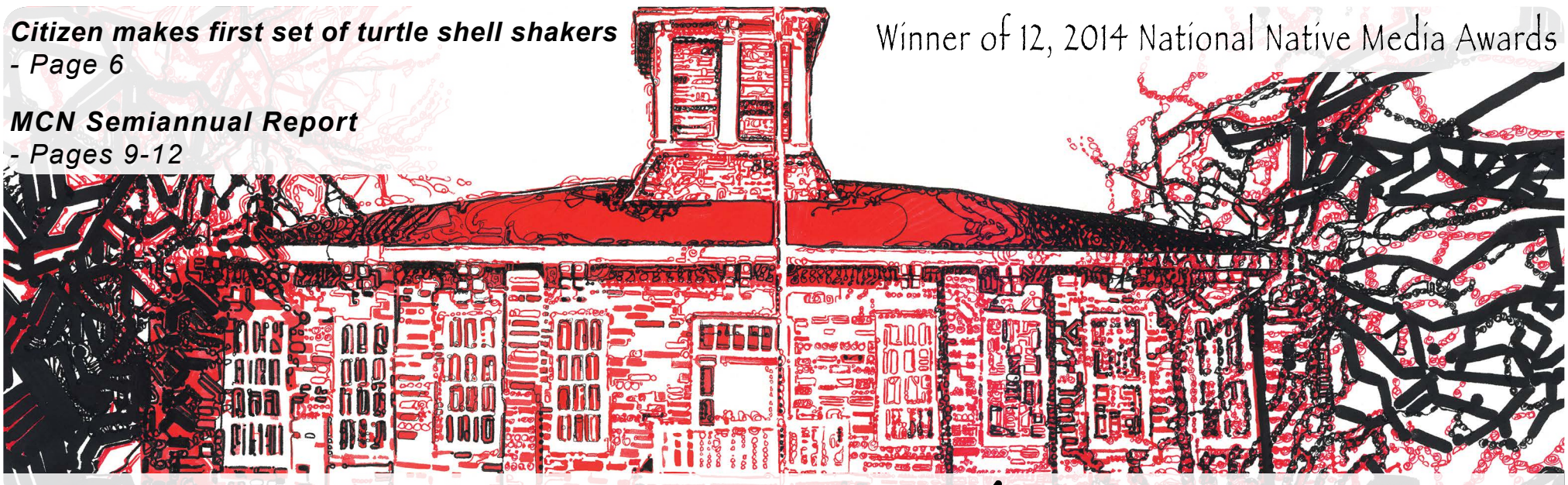




Citizen makes first set of turtle shell shakers
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MCN Semiannual Report
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Winner of 12, 2014 National Native Media Awards



Muscogee Nation News

Mvskoke Media production — The official tribal newspaper of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation

Sept. 1, 2014

Vol. 44, Issue 17
"Otowoskuce"
Little Chestnut Month

Native basketball players face off in Tulsa

Native Americans show support for Schimmel, Goodrich

Chelsie Rich/*Project Specialist*

TULSA, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Office of Public Relations in coordination with the Tulsa Shock honored two Native American WNBA players July 31 at the Bank of Oklahoma Center in Tulsa.

History was made in the MCN jurisdiction as two Native WNBA players met up for the first time.

Tribes from all over Oklahoma gathered to watch Tulsa Shock guard and Cherokee Nation citizen, Angel Goodrich and Atlanta Dream guard and Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation citizen, Shoni Schimmel.

"Through the athletic talents and accomplishments of Native American athletes such as Angel and Shoni, they've united and inspired youth and tribal members not only in Oklahoma, but across the United States," said MCN Principal Chief George Tiger.



MNN/Chelsie Rich

Native American WNBA players, Tulsa Shock guard and Cherokee Nation citizen, Angel Goodrich (right) and Atlanta Dream guard and Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation citizen, Shoni Schimmel (left) met up for the first time July 31 at the Bank of Oklahoma Center in Tulsa.

The night started off with beats of the drum and songs by the Redland Singers for an inter-tribal dance where over 50 Native Americans covered the court dressed in traditional attire.

"Native Americans are showing their pride and appreciation wherever they appear; pride in their accomplishments and pride in their traditions and cultures," Tiger said. "It is a unifying phenomenon that we want to perpetuate."

Goodrich graduated from Sequoya Indian High School in Tahlequah, Okla., where she led the Lady Indians to three state championships.

Goodrich went on to play for University of Kansas in Lawrence, Kan., and was drafted by the

Basketball - 2

Muscogee (Creek) tribal town receives federal grant

Thlopthlocco partners with Euchee Butterfly Farm

Amanda Rutland/*Media Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Euchee Butterfly Farm and Thlopthlocco Tribal Town received a $497,530 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Business Enterprise for their Natives Raising Natives Project.

This project will allow Thlopthlocco as well as Muscogee (Creek) citizens to raise species of butterflies native to the area to supplement their income.

Initially, NRNP received start up funds from the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Small Business Development Center and Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise. A full account of this arrangement can be viewed in the June 15 edition of the 'Muscogee Nation News.'



MNN/Jessica McBride

The Butterfly House owner David Bohlken shows framed butterflies to children at the Mvskoke Food Sovereignty Initiative Empowering Youth, Veterans, Ranchers and Farmers Annual Conference July 30, at the Oklahoma State University Extension Center in Okmulgee, Okla.

According to NRNP Director and Muscogee (Creek) citizen Jane Breckinridge, the grant provides the ability to develop an infrastructure to support long-term success.

"The ultimate goal with this thing is promote conservation and education, obviously; but also to create these jobs. And in order to make sure these jobs stay around for the long term, we have to make sure it is economically sustainable," Breckinridge said.

Breckinridge said Oklahoma is a prime candidate for butterfly farming because the state contains 11 different ecosystems.

She stated that butterfly farming is a good way to make use of land otherwise unsuitable for planting crops.

"This is a good way to take land that might not be good for other types of agriculture and make it yield more," Breckenridge said.

Thlopthlocco Tribal Town Tribal Administrator Ed Mouss said poverty levels in Okfuskee County are high.

"The long term effort is to develop economically to raise the living standard of mem-

Grant - 4

MCN SRO holds program fair

Event helps provide information, services to citizens

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

WETUMKA, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Southern Regional Office held a program fair Aug. 8 in Wetumka. The SRO is a branch of the MCN and has satellite offices that offer tribal program services for citizens in the southern part of the Nation's jurisdiction.

The program fair was held to let citizens know what departments are represented at SRO and the services they provide.

"The program fair that we are having today was to let the departments to be able to come down here and tell the citizens in the southern area about what their department provides," SRO Site Coordinator Darleata Tiger said. "We want them to know that we have the offices here to help take care of whatever need they may have instead of going to Okmulgee."

Some of the MCN departments that were at the program fair included: the MCN Foster Care and Adoption Program, Social Services, Elderly Nutrition and the Higher Education Scholarship Program.

Tiger understands that with high gas prices, citizens have a hard time making a trip to Okmulgee to runs errands. She wants citizens to know that the SRO is there to help them.

"Even if a department is not here, we will make the call for them to get them an application or whatever it is that they need," Tiger said. "We understand that sometimes it is very hard to make that trip north so we want to make things simpler for everyone."

Although the SRO has been open for around three years, some citizens still do not know

Fair - 2

MvskokeMedia

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CMCA meeting unifies Oklahoma, California

MCN delegation meets, helps citizens

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*



MNN/Darren DeLaune
An attendee of the California Muscogee (Creek) Association gathering Aug. 2, fills out an application for the new MCN citizenship ID.

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger, along with representatives from the MCN National Council and departments traveled west to meet with members of the California Muscogee (Creek) Association at a CMCA gathering Aug. 2, at the Native American United Methodist Church in Anaheim.

"Being so far away from the Muscogee (Creek) Nation in Okmulgee, we need to keep up with what is going on at our capitol," CMCA Interim President Jason Nichols said. "It is important to stay engaged and know what is going on with our elected officials."

Nichols introduced Tiger, NC representatives and MCN programs who were there to assist citizens, including the MCN Citizenship Office and Social Services, Public Relations and Education and Training Departments.

"We are very happy for the chief, National Council and departments that did make it," Nichols said. "It is hard for the citizens here to make the trip to Oklahoma to get things taken care of. We can do a lot of things online but sometimes the best thing is to have the departments come out here; help and answer questions that we might have."

Tiger called it an honor to be able to visit CMCA members.

"This gives us a chance to network with our citizens out here in California," Tiger said. "It give our citizens out here to renew their citizenship cards and register to vote and see if they are eligible for other services through the other departments that are here."

One of the topics discussed during the gathering was the passing of former CMCE president Ken Taylor and the illness of former president Eli Grayson. A moment of silence was held for Taylor and prayers were said for Grayson.

Former President George Windes, also dealing with an illness could not be present for the gathering.

Allen Mitchell, CMCA Sergeant-at-Arms of spoke about Taylor and Grayson, and also talked about Nichols. He believes the annual gathering will continue to forge relationships that will strengthen the Nation.

"The past presidents are missed," Mitchell said. "These presidents brought specific elements to the organization that helped us grow to what we are and what we will continue to be. We have a much younger president who will be helping us out with new concepts and new ideas and provide us with the leadership that we will need."

Mitchell who is originally from Checotah, Okla., but now lives in Torrance, Calif., spoke on having the elected officials and employees from Oklahoma out to California.

"We welcome everyone here from Oklahoma with open arms," Mitchell said. "They are a part of our Nation, heritage and culture. They are our cousins, aunts, uncles and relatives and our very happy for them to be here with us."

Nichols called it the 'government coming to the people.'

"The people out here really appreciate that," Nichols said.

Council held for language preservation, continuity



MNN/Darren DeLaune
Muscogee (Creek) Nation Language Instructor Rebecca Barnett speaks to Muscogee (Creek) citizens during the first Language Council Meeting Aug. 9 at the Elderly Nutrition Center in Okmulgee.

Program seeks input from elders for initiative

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — According to Muscogee (Creek) Nation Language Program Interim Manager Chumona Deere, the Mvskoke language will be lost within five years. Her, along with the staff at the Language Program are trying their best to prevent that from happening.

The MCN Language Program held the first Language Council Meeting Aug. 9 at the Elderly Nutrition Center in Okmulgee.

Citizens, young and old came to Okmulgee to help out in any way possible and listen to the speakers.

"We invited our elders out because they are our walking dictionary; our resources." Deere said. "We need to learn from them to keep our language going and staying strong. We need them for our records."

The meeting went over subjects such as trees, insects and animals. Some of the words in the Mvskoke Language are homonyms or words that have similar meanings.

"Back in our original homelands, our people had their own tribal towns and a lot of those towns had their own language," Deere said. "But with the government people started to be pushed together and the language crossed over and we picked up different words here and there. Also we had northern and southern routes during the trail of tears and some words got lost."

Deere stressed that although there might be a different way to say or spell a word, both may be correct. The point of the meeting was to generate a record for younger generations so they will be able to learn and understand the words.

"No word is the wrong word," Deere said. "We don't want to confuse anyone. We just want to give that option and to be more comfortable when you speak our language."

Deere wants to use the language council meeting as a tool to, 'go deeper into the language.' She explained that a tree is not just a tree; there are different types of trees and as well as animals and insects.

The council plans to continue working toward a consensus on the proper words.

"We want to go into the actual name of the different birds, trees and insects such as butterflies," Deere said. "That is what this council is for."

Deere aims to keep the language council going. She hopes the next meeting will be held around October.

"We want to continue this every two to three months so we can get these words recorded," Deere said.

Daria Hicks, a member of the Okfuskee Community attended the Language Council Meeting. This community holds their entire meetings in the Mvskoke language.

Hicks expressed her concern for the language.

"Our language is dying," Hicks said. "Our fluent speakers are a lot older and we do not have a lot left. We need the younger generation to pick up the language and keep it going."

Hicks feels that teaching beginning lessons for the younger generations around three to four years-of-age will help.

"The little ones can learn, grasp and hold onto the language," Hicks said. "If we start early, that will help keep our language alive."

Deere spoke about different events that the Language Program has scheduled over the next few months.

"We are going to be having a lot of trainings and programs for our citizens and for our students in our school," Deere said. "We are taking the steps to preserving our language and to keep it strong."

BASKETBALL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Shock in 2013.

"I've enjoyed it. It's a great experience; great opportunity," Goodrich said. "I'm just truly blessed to be here."

Schimmel graduated from Franklin High School in Portland, Ore., and then went to the University of Louisville in Louisville, Ky., where she helped the Lady Cardinals reach the NCAA Championship game in 2013.

On April 14, the Atlanta Dream selected Schimmel in the first round of the 2014 WNBA draft and she was later selected as the WNBA All-Star Most Valuable Player.

"It's a learning experience… trying to go out there and get better each day. I'm learning. Even in the games, I'm still watching and learning," Schimmel said.

The crowd shouted in excitement as Goodrich and Schimmel entered the game at the same time.

"I think it's great to see so many Native Americans here. We have such a big Native American base here around Oklahoma and to see so many come to the game and support us," Goodrich said.

Schimmel gave her thoughts about the crowd.

"It's awesome. It's amazing just to be able to see Native Americans out there and support. It means a lot to me," Schimmel said.

When asked what advice they would give to the youth who look up to them as role models, Goodrich said to aim high.

"Continue to follow your dreams… Keep pushing when someone's trying to tear you down because dreams do come true," Goodrich said. "I'm one of the smallest people in the WNBA."

Schimmel gave her words of encouragement.

"Never give up on your dreams. I grew up on a reservation, came from a reservation; I know what it's like. It takes a lot to get especially where I am today," Schimmel said. "It's not easy being in this position. You have to go out there and work for it. You got to go out there and get it yourself."

The Tulsa Shock fell to the Atlanta Dream with a final score of 85-75.

The two will meet up again Aug. 15 in Atlanta.

A question and answer session was held after the game, where fans were able to meet and take pictures with the two athletes.

FAIR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

about the office and its services.

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Rhonda Ellig from Weleetka, Okla., is happy the SRO is nearby. She said it has helped her and other citizens get business done with the Nation.

She and other citizens have been trying to get transportation to Okmulgee.

"For a lot of citizens, such as myself, it is a hard time for us to get to Okmulgee to be able to take care of what we need to take care of," Ellig said. "I appreciate the building they have here. When you cross I-40, you feel like you are forgotten about and having the offices here; it helps."

Mvskoke Loan Fund holds TERO training

Program offers specialized trainings

Jessica McBride/*Editorial Assistant*



OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Mvskoke Loan Fund offered a Tribal Employment Rights Office training Aug. 21 at the MCN Complex in Okmulgee.

"We are trying to help business owners understand not only the TERO process, but also the importance of being TERO certified and what that means and what kind of effect it can have on their small business," Mvskoke Loan Fund Director Lahoma Simmons said.

The training included members of MCN TERO and Cherokee Nation TERO; who guided participants through the requirements and benefits of becoming TERO certified.

MCN Secretary of the Nation Bill Fife said that these trainings strengthen business owners and the Nation.

"It benefits the individuals helping them get into business and to be successful in business and it also helps the tribe by building a tribal economy," Fife said.

Fife said that the program expects to provide training year round.

Simmons said that the class size of the trainings typically ranges from five to 10 people.

"We keep these classes pretty small so we can be as thorough as the individuals need us to be. And we're that way on all of our training classes," Simmons said.

Other trainings are offered through the program and include a variety of topics.

"We've got several coming up and what we've been doing is we just kind of poll people as we go and if we feel like it's something that necessary, then that's kind of the next class that we plan," Simmons said. "So we sort of cater the topics to the needs of the clients."

Simmons said that they are open to suggestions of future training topics.

For more information on the Mvskoke Loan Fund call: 918-549-2606.

MCN second chief charged with embezzlement



Media Release

OKMULGEE, Okla. — According to a press release issued by the U.S. Attorney's Office of the Northern District of Oklahoma, "Muscogee (Creek) Nation Second Chief Roger Barnett… was arrested by the Federal Bureau of Investigation Aug. 6, in relation to Federal charges alleging embezzlement of approximately $150,000 from the Tribe."

The indictment alleged Barnett embezzled, misapplied and converted to his personal use more than $1,000 of moneys and funds belonging to the MCN from April 2013-April 2014.

The release states the FBI investigation was initiated after MCN officials contacted federal authorities to report the possible misuse of tribal funds. If convicted, the maximum penalty is five years imprisonment and a fine of $250,000. Parole has been abolished in the federal system.

The FBI is the investigating agency. Assistant U.S. Attorneys Trent Shores and Shannon Cozzoni are prosecuting the case on behalf of the U.S.

The release states, "Grand Jury Indictment is one method of charging a defendant with alleged violations of Federal Law, which must be proven in a court of law beyond a reasonable doubt to overcome a defendants' presumption of innocence."

MCN Principal Chief George Tiger released a statement to the media regarding the indictment.

"I wanted to make sure that you are aware that Second Chief Roger Barnett is still an elected official of this Nation and that these allegations have not been proved by a court of law," the statement reads.

Barnett appeared before Magistrate Judge McCarthy Aug. 13 and Aug. 18.

According to a scheduling order filed Aug. 18, a motions hearing will take place Sept. 11 at 3:30 p.m., at the Federal Court House in Tulsa, Okla. Voir dire (jury screening), jury instructions and trial briefs are due Sept. 15, and the jury trial is scheduled for Sept. 22 at 9:30 a.m.

This release is a compilation of written statements from the U.S. Attorney General's Office, MCN Administration and court documents from the U.S. District Court, Northern District of Oklahoma.

Travel plaza celebrates 17 years



MNN/Jessica McBride

Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise employees hands out free items to customers Aug. 4 at the Creek Nation Travel Plaza in Okmulgee to recognize the plaza's 17 years of service.

Customers treated to giveaways, prizes

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise held a customer appreciation day Aug. 4 at the Creek Nation Travel Plaza in Okmulgee to recognize the plaza's 17 years of service.

To show appreciation to customers, MNBE gave out hot dogs and chips, and the first 100 customers received a cup that provides them with free refills until the end of the year.

MNBE General Manager of the Travel Plaza Shannon Hancock said. "It shows that all this time, we do have loyal customers and we want to show them how much they are appreciated."

Vendors, including Pepsi and Monster, were there to hand out free merchandise to customers.

Renovations to the interior and exterior of the building are scheduled for the plaza and upgrades for the employees are planned as well.

"We are painting and also changing our uniforms," Hancock said. "We are having our employees go through some training. Customer service is very important to everyone that works for the travel plaza."

MNBE also hopes to have plaza employees learn the Mvskoke language in order for them to interact with customers who speak it.

"That is in the beginning stages right now," Hancock said. "It is something that has been talked about and looks very promising for us. We want our employees to learn the Mvskoke language because we do have some customers that will speak to us and we want to be able to respond to them."

Hancock said the upgrades are a reflection of what the customers have done to help them.

"Because of the customers, this is why there are the upgrades," Hancock said. "We want to give back to the Nation, community and to our customers. We want to keep growing to more than just the two travel plazas."

There are two travel plazas in Okmulgee and Muskogee that are within the MCN jurisdiction. A customer appreciation day for the Muskogee plaza is set for Sept. 15.

"We want those customers to know that they are doing a lot for us as well," Hancock said.

Hancock wants to clarify a rumor that the travel plazas are subsidized by gaming revenue.

"We do not have gaming funds," Hancock said. "We rely on our customers and their business and we want to drive in new customers to our stores. We want to be competitive."

The location of the Okmulgee Travel Plaza always has been a positive for the store.

"If you are leaving for a trip north, that can be your last stop to get what you need. Or if you're going into Okmulgee; that can be the first place you need to stop at or get some gas for your vehicle," Hancock said. "When you stop here, we want you to be happy about your visit."

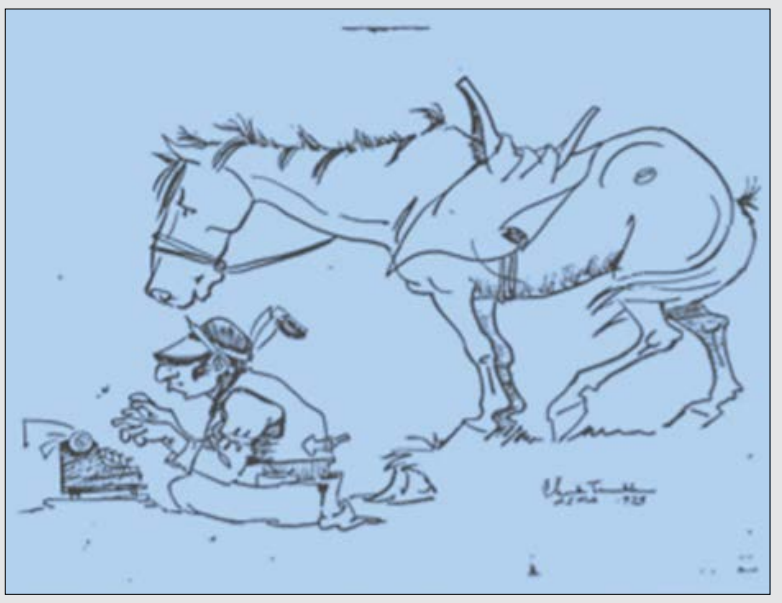
Hancock also wants to let the customers know about their 'Text 2 Win' mobile alerts.

"Text 'Plaza' to 30218 for our mobile alerts," Hancock said. "We do giveaways at certain times so please text that for updates."

Those seeking employment with the travel plazas may apply at: www.mnbe.com.



Emvpanyv: ‘One who tells a story’



Mascot controversies, a missed opportunity with a missed comedian

Gary Fife/*Radio Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Back in late July, the Bass Coast Festival banned feathered war bonnets, or anything resembling them during their music festival in Canada.

Organizers said, “We understand why people are attracted to war bonnets. They have a magnificent aesthetic. But their spiritual, cultural and aesthetic significance cannot be separated.

“Bass Coast Festival takes place on indigenous land and we respect the dignity of aboriginal people. We have consulted with aboriginal people in British Columbia on this issue and we feel our policy aligns with their views and wishes regarding the subject.”

The festival started Aug. 1 in Merritt, British Columbia.

Now, isn’t that a nice change for once?

Here’s another one — a twist on the mascot images on T-shirts.

FOX 23 Sports said it's billed as the "Non-native American mascot;" the satirical twin brother of Cleveland Indians cartoon caricature Chief Wahoo.

It featured a Caucasian with a grinning, bucktooth expression and a dollar sign in place of a feather in the same style as the Indians logo. The grinning Caucasians logo by Cleveland based Shelf Life Clothing Co. has become a hot item recently at Ontario First Nations according to the ‘Toronto Star.’

According Shelf Life Clothing, the company has shipped over 100 shirts to Ontario since the Cleveland controversy began.

The grinning bucktooth Chief Wahoo is still around but the team changed its primary logo to a block C, replacing Chief Wahoo.

Reports say the Caucasians team currently does not have any games scheduled.

The Chippewa Cree Tribe of Montana accepted a $200,000 playground from the Disneyland-On-The-Pototmac team's Original Americans Foundation.

In a ‘USA Today’ article, the director of the tribe's wellness center Mike Sangrey said, "What matters is our kids get to enjoy a new playground. And how can that be bad?"

And still it goes on…

Representatives of the Washington NFL team's Original Americans Foundation were in Zuni Pueblo, New Mexico recently to buy jewelry, pottery, etchings and other pieces from Zuni tribal artists in an effort they claim was aimed at helping the tribe’s depressed economy.

"Preferred items will be those that have the Washington R…. team logo, or use of team colors … embedded in the artwork," stated a notice from the tribe to the artists.

The notice also asked artists to "spread the word" to others who may have logo art to sell.

The tribe asked artists not to show up smelling of alcohol or pot or under the influence of anything else.

Enough of this.

A lot of people were shocked and saddened to hear about the death of popular comedian and actor Robin Williams.

Muscogee (Creek) musician, writer and poet Joy Harjo recently sent out a Facebook bit talking about a missed opportunity to spend a little time with Williams:

“In the late eighties, in Denver, I got front row seats to a comedy extravaganza, that included many of the best comics in the business, including Louie Anderson and Robin Williams. I was stunned by Robin William’s brilliance. No one could touch him at improv.

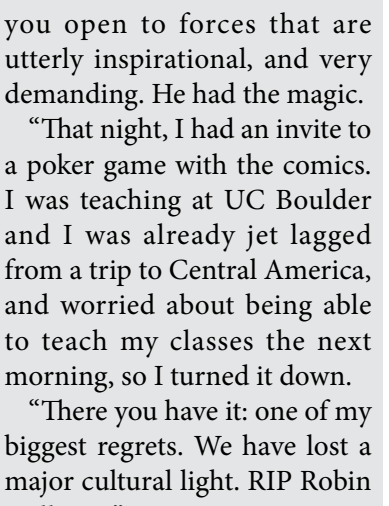
“Improv, whether it be comedy, words or music demands that you open to forces that are utterly inspirational, and very demanding. He had the magic.

“That night, I had an invite to a poker game with the comics. I was teaching at UC Boulder and I was already jet lagged from a trip to Central America, and worried about being able to teach my classes the next morning, so I turned it down.

“There you have it: one of my biggest regrets. We have lost a major cultural light. RIP Robin Williams.”

I bet that decision just became more painful. Wow, Joy.

My own favorite Robin Williams movie was ‘Good Morning, Vietnam.’ Especially the scene where Williams (as DJ Adrian Cronauer) talked one-on-one with soldiers being trucked into battle.



— Hvtvm Cehecares (I will see you again).

Grant

Continued from Page 1

bership,” Mouss said. “I know a lot of the population is below poverty level.”

Breckinridge believes this is a means of income in which most everyone could participate. She estimates participants could make about $400 a month.

“Right now what we are shooting for is to provide this as a part-time income source for people,” Breckinridge said.

The goal for the first two years is to have 100 participants in the program. The grant also provides start up materials free of charge for Native Americans.

“We can supply through grants and other funding, all the materials to make cost not be a barrier to people,” Breckinridge said.

In addition to economic growth, the funds allow for the creation of a visitor center.

Breckinridge said the center would be located near Tulsa, Okla., and bring in additional revenue to funnel back into the program.

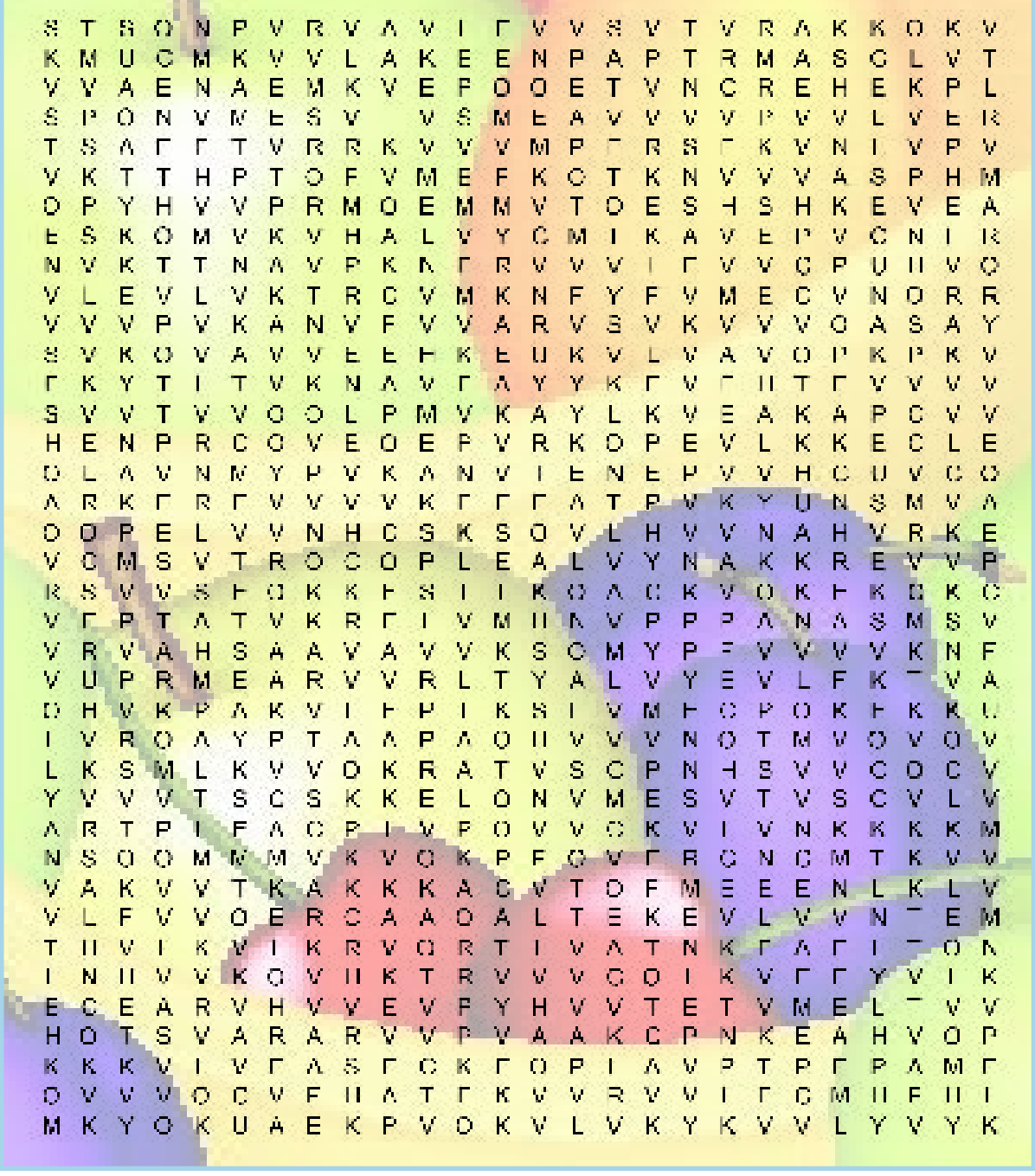
“So that people from all over Oklahoma can come and see these butterflies for an admission fee,” Breckinridge said.

Mouss said the center is still in the planning stages and is over a year away from opening.

The NRNP is over to all Native Americans. For more information call: 918-366-0964 or email Natives Raising Natives Project Director Jane Breckinridge at: jane@native-butterflies.org.

A word search from the Mvskoke Language Preservation Program: *Fruit*

SVTV RAKKO — Apple
PVKANV — Peach
PVRKO — Grape
SVTARKOMA — Pear
KVCO — Blackberry
YVLAHV — Orange
KEPALV — Strawberry
CVSTVLE — Watermelon
FVMECV — Cantaloupe
YVLAHV RAKKO — Grapefruit
TOFVME — Cherry
YVLAHV KVMOKSE — Lemon
SVTV SEMVNOLE — Persimmon
PVKANV TENEPE — Apricot
PVKANUCE — Plum





RIP receives national award



Photo Submission

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Reintegration Program was recognized as the tribal recipient of the 2014 National Criminal Justice Association Outstanding Criminal Justice Program Award Aug. 12, during the 2014 NCJA National Forum on Criminal Justice at the Beaver Run Conference Center in Breckenridge, Colo.

Program honored for work in criminal justice

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

BRECKINRIDGE, Colo. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Reintegration Program received the 2014 National Criminal Justice Association Outstanding Criminal Justice Program Award Aug. 12 in Breckinridge, Colo.

Every year, the National Criminal Justice Association honors programs who they believe are outstanding and need to be recognized. Award winners were selected from one tribal program as well as the Midwest, Northeast, South, West regions.

Over 50 criminal justice programs including RIP were nominated for the honor.

"Being recognized nationally is nice," RIP Manager Tony Fish said. "It makes you feel good to know that everything you have been doing for the last nine years, all the late hours and tough love that you have been giving has paid off."

Fish also prioritizes recognition from and for MCN.

"Getting recognized from our home and our tribe is what we are proud of," Fish said. "Nationally is important too because it brings the recognition to not only us, but to our tribe and what our tribe has accomplished."

Caseworker Sprint Williams agreed with Fish's sentiments regarding recognition.

"The support we have, not just nationally but around here, is showing everyone what our program is doing for our citizens," Williams said. "It has been amazing to receive this award and it shows where we are at now as a department compared to where we were at five years ago."

Filmmaker shoots for the Oscars



Photo Submission

The cast and crew of 'The Dawes Commission' movie on location near Okemah, Okla.

The road from contest to silver screen

Amanda Rutland/*Media Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — 'The Dawes Commission' movie adaptation by Muscogee (Creek) filmmaker Bob Hicks is close to completion. The journey from idea to the original play and now film has taken approximately three years.

Hicks said the project started with the Heller Theater in Tulsa, Okla. The theater had a contest and what started as a nine-page screenplay, developed into a short film.

"I kept thinking, 'what could I do with nine pages and a briefcase? Oh, 'The Dawes Commission,' " Hicks said. "That briefcase could be the agent bringing all the paperwork to a family."

Two years later, Hicks reworked the original version into a one-act play, adding additional characters. The play premiered during the 2013 Muscogee (Creek) Nation Festival.

In December 2013, the MCN National Council passed NCA 13-310, providing $241,049 to fund 'The Dawes Commission' movie.

Hicks wrapped up filming in April, and has been working with his longtime friend and owner of Time River Production, Kevin Brechner on editing the footage. Hicks said 99 percent of the film has been cut together.

Hicks is pushing to have the project finished in time to submit to the Academy Awards short film category. The deadline for Oscar submissions is Oct. 5.

"I am bringing in a composer and I still have to send it out to California so this company can then put it into a format the academy can accept," Hicks said.

Some of the requirements for the academy include: two screenings by an audience chosen by the director, a showing for a paying audience in Los Angeles for at least three days and a runtime of no more than 40 minutes.

Hicks said the short film category includes international films and in the last decade, U.S. films have won four times.

'The Dawes Commission' is a project that is meaningful to Hicks. The majority of the film crew was made up of Muscogee (Creek) citizens.

"Here, everything is homegrown," Hicks said. "I wanted to be able to say we can do this stuff. We have the ability."

Hicks said when the film is finished it will belong to the MCN.

Mvskoke Radio grows with new hosts, station owners



MNN File Photo

'Mvskoke Radio' host Gary Fife conducts a program at the KOKL The Brew 1240AM studio in downtown Okmulgee, Okla.

Program informs citizens about tribal events, non-citizens about tribe

Sterling Cosper/*MNN Editor*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — On a Wednesday morning in the Mvskoke Media department, Gary Fife grabs a lukewarm bottle of water to wet his vocal cords and a manila folder filled with community news items as he heads towards the KOKL 1240AM studio in downtown Okmulgee to host the 'Mvskoke Radio' program.

"The focus of Mvskoke Radio is to provide the kind of programming our citizens need," Fife said. "Like tribal programs and events that effect tribal citizens specifically."

Fife also aims to inform Okmulgee residents about the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

"Keeping our tribe on the airwaves here and keeping other non-Native listeners aware of what the tribe is. That it is an important part of the local economy and community structure," Fife said.

Earlier in the day, Fife calls his scheduled guests to confirm that they are still on for the show.

The subject matter and guests vary widely from week-to-week or even segment-to-segment during the same program.

"We did a show last year on the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 plane crashes and we spoke with the head of the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian in New York City," Fife said.

This interview focused on the guest's personal experiences working through this national tragedy and attempting to preserve the museum collection from the harmful fallout material caused by the World Trade Center collapse.

"We found that to be a fascinating discussion," Fife said.

Apparently, several peer journalists did too as the segment won first place in general excellence for 'Mvskoke Radio' in the 2014 National Native Media Awards cycle.

The hour-long show also covers informative subjects like diabetes and tick borne illness and includes features on Muscogee (Creek) citizens from a broad array of professions and disciplines.

"That could be an interview with the recent candidate for the National Indian Gaming Commission chair, which is a Creek citizen, Jonodev Chaudhuri," Fife said. "Also, we have our artist, poet and musician Joy Harjo."

Fife believes that radio as a news medium appeals to a specific aspect of the indigenous world.

"With so many of our Native cultures having an oral tradition, I think it's important for our listeners to hear the voices of the people involved," Fife said. "The way you say something is every bit as important as what you actually say."

"With so many of our Native cultures having an oral tradition, I think it's important for our listeners to hear the voices of the people involved."

- Gary Fife
'Mvskoke Radio' host

According to Fife, some other advantages of radio include the ability to provide listeners with live, up-to-date news and a format that allows them to multitask while consuming the information.

"It's not like a paper, where you can put it down; walk away and come back and pick it up," Fife said. "Or, it doesn't have the power that visuals have like with television but we can get that information out very quickly in kind of a handy medium."

The show has undergone some new changes this year including the addition of an online format, which now allows listeners to return to a particular program.

"So they can download that material to their own device, which might be an iPad or something else and they can listen on their own time, which is a huge advantage to us," Fife said.

A live stream of every broadcast and back episodes can be found at: www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov/Pages/Radio/radio.html.

The program's parent station KOKL is also under new ownership.

"The change in ownership brought a new musical format, which I personally think is more attractive to a wider variety of listeners," Fife said.

Fife is currently training several members of the Mvskoke Media staff to broaden the co-host bullpen along with the audience.

"What we are trying to do there is make the program more open so that a listener gets used to a variety of voices and not having just one host all of the time," Fife said.

Having been in radio since 1986, Fife has extensive experience to share with younger staff members.

The majority of this experience has been in tribal news and he has some insight to share about the higher purpose of broadcasting to this particular audience.

"I've always felt that it is important that we understand what our weaknesses are too. Many times it is our own people. We may get in a situation where they may be working counterproductive to what the tribal goal is, doing things that they shouldn't be doing.

"If they get caught, then we need to know that we are exposing a problem within our own ranks," Fife said.

Whether a particular show involves heavy issues like accountability or lighter topics like citizen features, Fife continues to enjoy his craft.

"Getting a chance to talk to people that a lot of folks don't get to chat with and spending some time, kind of getting into their minds a little; their experiences and creativeness," Fife said. "And being able to share that material makes me feel good when we've done a good show."

On occasion, 'Mvskoke Radio' features a call in program where listeners are encouraged to interact with guests. The show can be reached through the KOKL studio line at: 918-756-3646.

Citizen makes first set of turtle shell shakers

Beaver inspired by great-grandmother's words

Chelsie Rich/*Project Specialist*



MNN/Chelsie Rich
Muscogee (Creek) Citizen Noah Beaver made his first pair of turtle shell shakers to be used at traditional stompdances.

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Noah Beaver made his first pair of turtle shell shakers to be used at traditional stompdances.

A stompdance is a ceremony where family and friends gather to take part in a dance that has religious and social significance.

These shells are worn on the legs of women to maintain rhythm during stompdance songs.

"I think about how it used to be using the turtles. Knowing that the elders that used to make these are getting sick. They're passing on and nobody's learning how to make turtles," Beaver said.

Beaver's great-grandmother inspired him to learn how to make shells.

She told him stories about how to make them but he was never shown the method.

"She told me but I basically had to figure it out by myself," Beaver said.

Beaver spotted turtles in the road while driving around the Okmulgee Lake in the mornings on his way to work this summer and decided that he would start collecting them to make shells.

He cleaned each turtle out after he got home from work and set the shells out to dry.

"It takes about an hour a turtle and takes three, four days to dry," Beaver said.

When the turtles are dry, Beaver drills holes in them and places small, smooth river rocks into the shell; then closes the shell shut with wire.

Once enough turtles are collected, Beaver laces them all together and attaches them to the cut off top of a boot.

All the turtles that were collected to make the shells were female.

"Females somehow make a louder noise," Beaver said.

Beaver invested plenty of time into the turtle shell shakers.

"From the first turtle to finishing it, it took all summer since it was my first time making them," Beaver said.

Beaver plans to continue making shells and has already started working on his second pair for a young girl.

Beaver is a 17-year-old junior at Okemah High School and a member of the Skunk Clan and Nuyaka Ceremonial Ground.

Citizens accomplish educational goals





Photo Submission
Muscogee (Creek) siblings Eleanor and Mark Zachery were inspired by their two older sisters to pursue success through higher education. All four Zachery siblings received financial assistance from the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Higher Education Department.

Zachery siblings follow in sisters' footsteps

Jessica McBride/*Editorial Assistant*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Education was emphasized in the Zachery household.

"Both of my parents are in the education field… they really, really pushed education," Muscogee (Creek) citizen Eleanor Zachery said. "Many kids don't grow up like that and I feel like that made us better people… It motivated us."

Eleanor received a bachelor's degree from Langston University in Langston, Okla., and a Master of Business Administration from Oklahoma Christian University in Edmond, Okla.

While at Langston, she served as the Native American Student Association vice president.

Eleanor chose her field of study because she has always viewed herself as an entrepreneur.

"What better field to go into than business? To learn the financial aspects of it as well as how to become organized and have good managerial skills," Eleanor said.

Currently, Eleanor works at Tinker Air Force Base in Midwest City, Okla., where she works with vendor contracts.

Eleanor said that this experience will help her in the future if she decides to start her own business and pursue government contracts.

Her brother, Muscogee (Creek) citizen Mark Zachery graduated cum laude from Oklahoma City University with a bachelor's degree in biology and biomedical science.

While at OCU, he received the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship for $5,000, which allowed him to study abroad for a semester at Ritsumeikan University in Kyoto, Japan.

Mark also served on the spring annual powwow committee at OCU.

He plans to pursue a master's or doctorate degree in the medical field.

"I really want to help people out," Mark said. "I don't care if it takes me 10 years; I'm going to have a higher degree."

Eleanor and Mark said that their older sisters Aleah and Ashley set an example for them. The older sisters both have master's degrees.

"My sisters actually set the bar," Eleanor said.

All four siblings received scholarships from the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Higher Education Department.

Eleanor and Mark are thankful to MCN for assisting them with accomplishing their goals.

"Muscogee (Creek) Nation has not only helped me achieve a great career… I see myself blossoming from my current career and going on to bigger and better things," Eleanor said.

Mark said that pursuing an education may seem difficult, but to keep on striving for the goal.

"Don't give up. It's going to be hard. It's going to be long nights and tough days," Mark said. "Part of life is just getting past those obstacles and just striving for the best."

Eleanor believes that it does not take a special person to attain a higher degree.

"Anybody can do it. It's about dedication. It's not about how smart you are; it's about being willing to put the work in for yourself to have great results," Eleanor said.

Eleanor and Mark are the children of Mark and Kimberly Zachery and the grandchildren of Lois Lyday Mosley.

Sisters and educational leaders

Dunham and Smith inspire students

Chelsie Rich/*Project Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — For most schoolteachers, summer means no school, vacation and time to relax but not for two dedicated Muscogee (Creek) siblings.

Kathy Dunham and Jamie Smith spend their summers helping their students and other youth.

Dunham and Smith grew up in Dewar, Okla., where they graduated high school.

While having a fundraiser for their church at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation complex, Smith told Dunham that she was going to the MCN Higher Education department to fill out paperwork to go to college.

"I'm going if you're going," Dunham told Smith.

Dunham and Smith attended Connors State College in Warner, Okla., and then went to Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Okla., where they graduated with their degrees in education.

Dunham and Smith spoke about what and who influenced them to go into education.

"I love kids and when I started teaching Sunday school; I realized I did love teaching kids," Smith said.

Dunham spoke about one of the teachers she had in school.

"My home economics teacher was my inspiration. I loved the subject and I loved her," Dunham said.

Dunham has taught at Hanna and Dewar Public Schools for 22 years and is currently the family and consumer science teacher at Okay Public Schools.

Dunham is also an advisor for the Okay chapter of Family Career and Community Leaders of America.

"I love what I do. I could retire this year but I have no desire to retire so I'm still going to teach," Dunham said.

Some of Dunham's students compete in Students Taking Action with Recognition events and for those students who make it to the national level; Dunham spends most of her summer raising money for the trip and preparing them for the competition.

Dunham has led her students to 83 national gold medals and 15 silver medals from STAR events.

She also had three students elected to serve as FCCLA state officers and 30 as district officers.

"I had a student tell me when she graduates, she is going to be a FACS teacher because I was her inspiration," Dunham said. "That made my day. I told her, 'everything I've done you've made it worthwhile because you want to follow in my footsteps.' "

Smith has been teaching for 24 years at Ryal and Dewar Public Schools and is currently a fourth grade teacher at Glenpool Elementary School.

Smith spoke of an experience she had with one of her students.

"One little girl, she was reading a book and came to me and said, 'Mrs. Smith, I know this word because of what you taught me,' " Smith said. "It's just a great feeling knowing I had a part in this."

During the summer, Smith continues to work with kids by serving as a counselor for the MCN Summer Youth Program.

"I will never quit loving kids… I still teach Sunday school so I work with kids there. I work with kids at school and then I work with summer youth," Smith said.

When Dunham and Smith take time off from helping others, they enjoy spending time with their family.

Senior of the month: Jorene Coker

An article by Muscogee (Creek) elder Lou Crofut

Jorene Anderson Coker was born July 2, 1923 to Samuel Anderson and Martha Gibson Anderson. She is the great-granddaughter of Samuel Checote and Priscilla Powell Checote.

Her paternal grandparents are Tom and Hailey Anderson and her maternal grandparents are Joseph Gibson and Hettie Checote Gibson.

After her parents divorced, the family lived with Hettie Gibson. Jorene and her brother had the chore of chopping and gathering wood to carry to the house. Hettie worked a garden in the summer time and Jorene learned her work ethics from Hettie. The family went to

New Town Methodist Church and walked with grandma Hettie the seven or eight miles on the second and fourth Sundays.

During the 1930s, everyone in the Preston, Okla., area was poor. Most of the meat eaten by the family consisted of rabbits and squirrels, which were hunted and killed by Jorene's cousins Ralph and Solomon Kelly.

Jorene graduated from Preston high school in 1941 and went to Haskell Institute in Lawerence, Kan., for the commercial course. She left Kansas in 1943. Unable to find a job in Okmulgee, she joined the Navy in January 1944. Her boot camp training was in Bronx, NY. Upon completion, she went to Cedar Falls, Iowa to learn the Navy way or correspondence. Her first duty station was Camp Wallace in Galveston, Texas. Later she transferred to Norfork, Va. She was approved for transfer to Oahu, Hawaii in May 1945. She traveled to Oahu on a troopship embarking from San Francisco. Her last duty station was Pearl Harbor and she was discharged in June 1946.

She went to college on the G.I. Bill and graduated from East Central in 1950. She taught school for three years and married Charlie Coker Oct. 3, 1952.

Unable to find a teaching job in Tulsa, Okla., she went and worked in the business world.

Jorene was a part of the committee of Osten and worked with Charlie Coker, Phillip Coon, and Monroe Sulphur to erect the Muscogee (Creek) Veterans Memorial established located on the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Complex.

She worked with Mrs. Embrey in the fight against Texas who was trying to buy Oklahoma water.

She served as secretary for two terms in the Okmulgee AARP and is now disseminating information about global warming to Muscogee (Creek) citizens and non-Natives.

Law's nuances still removing land from Indian Country

Allotments lost to adverse possession, blood quantum

Jessica McBride/*Editorial Assistant*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — At the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council quarterly session July 26, the Council passed TR 14-114 unanimously authorizing the MCN Legal Services Program to appoint legal counsel to act on alleged violations on a citizen's property.

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Wilson Bear still retains his restricted family allotment in McIntosh County. Recently, he noticed individuals trespassing on his land and leasing it without his permission.

During the session, Rep. Adam Jones explained the resolution.

"We've been battling with this for a couple of years now; trying to get the BIA to help… His (trespasser's) intent, I believe is to adverse possess the land and take it away," Jones said.

Pursuant to the Act of Aug. 4, 1947, also known as the 47 Act, restricted land can be adversely possessed. This means another party can seize control and title of land they do not own by 'squatting' or using the land for 15 years.

"That's how the courts have interpreted that under the 1947 Act and that's another part of the 1947 Act that's been destructive towards individual Indian ownership rights and Indian land in general," MCN Attorney General Roger Wiley said.

The 47 Act is a federal law that affects the restricted land of the Five Civilized Tribes.

"It establishes how restricted land is kept restricted land and what you have to do to get leases, conveyances, sales; any kind of conveyance by lease, sale, mineral leases, mineral sales," Wiley said.

Restricted land vs. trust land

Native Americans and the U.S. government have battled over land issues throughout history.

In the 1830s, the tribes in the Southeastern U.S. were removed to the current state of Oklahoma because of expanding white settlement in the area. Millions of acres of what was the traditional homelands of the Five Civilized Tribes, which includes Muscogee (Creek), Cherokee, Choctaw, Chickasaw and Seminole Nations, was ceded to the U.S. government.

The Dawes Allotment Act passed by Congress in 1887, dissected the land and granted 160 acres to the head of the household. The Curtis Act of 1898 forced the allotment process on the FCT, abolished tribal governments and enabled Oklahoma to pursue statehood.

Land was allotted to individual citizens of the FCT in restricted status. Restricted land is different from trust land.

The title of trust land is held by the U.S. first, for the benefit of the individual or entity listed on the title document. According to Wiley, most trust land within the MCN jurisdiction is assigned to the Nation.

Like trust land, restricted land is not taxed. However, the individual and not the U.S. government holds title.

'Squatting'

Unlike the restricted land of the FCT, trust land cannot be adversely possessed.

"You can go squat on the government's land for 50 years and never own it," Wiley said.

However, because the FCT were granted restricted land and not trust land; another person can repossess FCT original allotments.

MCN Realty Office Manager Sonya McIntosh said that the 47 Act grants power to the State of Oklahoma over the FCT's restricted land.

"Because we're under that umbrella, somebody can come in and run cattle on your property for 15 years and adversely possess it," McIntosh said.

Why is the state involved?

The 47 Act also states that the state court's ruling cannot be appealed to federal or tribal court.

"That means it's a permanent action by the state district court," MCN Director of Interior Affairs Jeff Fife said. "There's no avenue to get back in the federal court or even the tribal court."

This is not the case outside of the FCT.

"Any other tribe they go through the tribal court system," McIntosh said.

According to the U.S. Department of the Interior Indian Affairs website: www.bia.gov/WhoWeAre/index.htm, the, "Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) is responsible for the administration and management of 55 million surface acres and 57 million acres of subsurface minerals estates held in trust by the United States for American Indian, Indian tribes, and Alaska Natives."

The land managed by the BIA includes trust land, but due to the 47 Act does not encompass restricted land.

"Everything that has historically been addressed creates a pingpong match. If you go to the Bureau, the Bureau says, 'Well that's restricted. It's handled by the state under the 47 Act so you need to go to the corporation commission,'" Fife said. "The corporation commission would say, 'Well that's Indian land. You need to go to the BIA.' So you could see the frustration that people would go through. Quite frankly, people still go through today."

Back in 1901, oil and gas were discovered in Red Fork Field in the Tulsa, Okla., area. According to: www.digital.library.okstate.edu/encyclopedia/entries/R/RE004.html, though the field was never a big producer, it highlighted Oklahoma in the potential for oil production.

Fife believes that the discovery of oil in eastern Oklahoma played into the law's creation and state court assuming jurisdiction.

"I think this 47 Act was purely driven by the abundance of natural resources that were contained on tribal properties," Fife said. "And this 47 Act allows the sale of minerals through the district courts."

Blood quantum

According to Wiley, another difficult stipulation of the law is that a tribal citizen must show a combined registered blood quantum of one half exclusively with the FCT on their Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood in order to preserve their FCT allotment in restricted status.

This is not true of any other tribes.

"So blood quantum is not an issue," McIntosh said. "You can be any tribe… or you can be eligible to be an Indian."

According to McIntosh, once an heir of the allotment slips below 50 percent, restricted status is invalidated and the land is taxable. According to Wiley, land that is not restricted or in trust is not counted in the tribe's land base.

"The blood quantum issue, last year alone we lost almost 800 acres to an heir being determined as less than half degree Indian blood. Now that's a significant amount," Fife said.

Because an allotment to other tribes was issued in trust, it will retain trust status regardless of blood quantum unless it is purchased or inherited by a non-Indian.

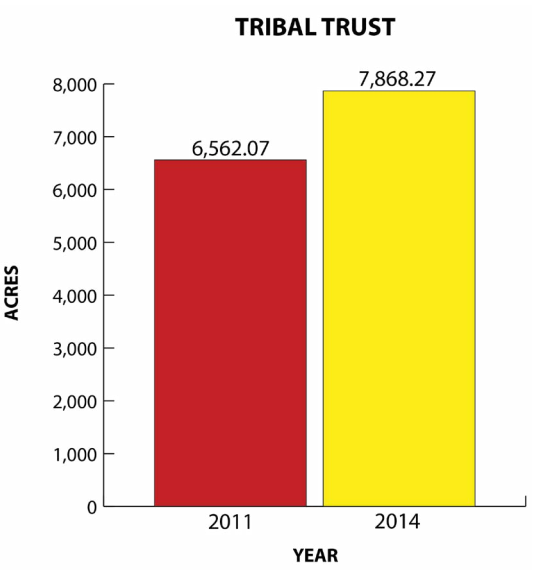
Fife believes that the 47 Act blood quantum stipulation is detrimental.

"But to take the blood quantum and use it as an instrument to reduce Indian land, that is wrong. There's no other way to say it. It's wrong," Fife said.

Land base

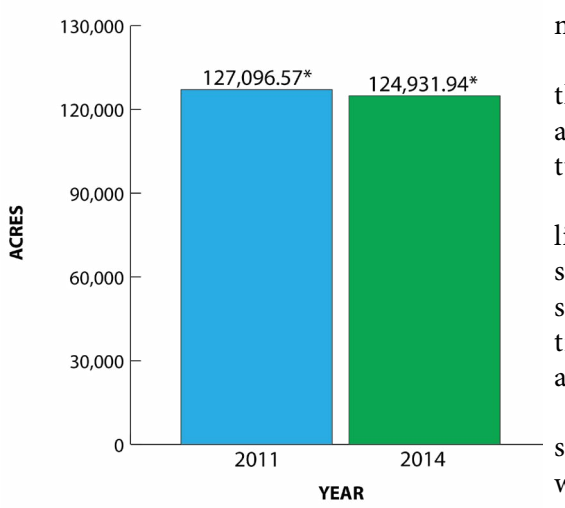
The land base of MCN consists of trust and restricted land; both of which are under Muscogee (Creek) jurisdiction.

"94 percent of what we claim as jurisdiction belongs to the people," Fife said. "Now you can see the problem if we lose what we're claiming. We're now on a much smaller footprint. Our jurisdictional boundaries are equivalent to the entire state of Maine. Now that puts things in perspective."



According to Fife, acreage dissipates every day because of the 47 Act.

In 2011, the land held by Muscogee (Creek) citizens in trust or restriction was approximately 127,097 acres. In 2014, that number dropped to approximately 124,932.



MCN has criminal and civil control over trust and restricted land in the Nation's jurisdiction. Once restrictions are eliminated from this land, MCN no longer has authority over it.

The jurisdictional question affected the court case of David Magnan v. Randall Workman, Warden, Oklahoma State Penitentiary and E. Scott Pruitt, Attorney General for the State of Oklahoma in October 2012.

In the case, the petitioner appealed his conviction of murder because he stated the land where the crime took place was located in Indian Country. The case questioned whether or not the murders took place in Indian Country because the land was an original allotment still owned by Seminole heirs that fulfilled the requirements of the 47 Act.

If land is restricted, jurisdictional authority belongs to the tribal court or federal court. If land is not restricted, the case is tried under state jurisdiction.

The same precedent may be followed in the Violence Against Women Act, once the tribe receives authority to prosecute these cases.

Wiley said that the land base of the Nation is significant.

"You have to have a land base to have any sort of power and considering how large the Nation is geographically," Wiley said. "Those are our political boundaries and that all used to be within our political and criminal jurisdiction… it's diminished over the years as we've lost restricted land."

What is being done?

McIntosh said that her department copes with the 47 Act on a daily basis. The MCN Realty Office reaches out to communities to help citizens understand the law.

"…but what we try to do in this office is every time we have a client, we more or less school them on what is the possibility of happening to your land through probate because that's when it comes into play," McIntosh said.

The Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes passed Resolution 13-36, Oct. 11, 2013, requesting a committee to draft an amendment to the 47 Act because it, "selectively exclude(s) the Five Civilized Tribes from managing its' own affairs."

McIntosh, along with Wiley and Fife are members of the committee.

"We don't think there should be any blood quantum," Wiley said.

Wiley also believes that restricted land should be under tribal jurisdiction and not the state.

"There's no reason why a person wanting to get a mineral deed approved; the oil company and the landowner, the restricted owners should be able to come to a tribal court because it's Indian land," Wiley said.

Wiley hopes that the committee will be able to introduce an amendment in 2015.

"But we want to go about it the right way," Wiley said. "We want to make sure that what we propose is soundproof."

Until then, Wiley suggests that citizens contact their U.S. congressman.

"…the Five Tribes are the only ones who are treated that way. That's discriminatory," Wiley said. "And it seems to me that if the citizens out there will make their best effort to get involved in the political process; to call their congressman to express their concerns; to express their support for these changes we're proposing. That I think that would be valuable."

For questions regarding restricted land contact the MCN Realty Office at: 918-732-7713.

"For a person right now to have restricted land left; that's a gift," McIntosh said.



Courtesy Oklahoma Historical Society

The Dawes Commission and Muscogee (Creek) commissioner meet at the Masonic Hall in Muskogee, Okla.

MCN employees take weapons class



MNN/Gary Fife
Muscogee (Creek) citizen Sean Taryole focuses on target as Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthorse Officer Patrick Williams coaches him.

Nation offers course for Oklahoma carry, conceal license

Gary Fife/*Radio Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Interest in obtaining a state license to carry a concealed weapon has been high through the country and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation is no different.

A recent training opportunity offered for tribal employees by the MCN Lighthorse Police Department drew about 140 inquires according to Captain Dennis Northcross.

"There was a strong interest expressed by employees," Northcross said.

To obtain an Oklahoma Self-Defense Act license, applicants must take a firearms safety course and learn about state laws as they pertain to openly carrying or carrying a concealed firearm and under what circumstances it may be used.

The Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation conducts a background investigation on applicants and a number of laws and regulations govern who may legally obtain a license.

The first class to show up for training Aug. 6 at the Lighthorse firing range was a small group of about five employees from different MCN offices.

Chuck McGechie was a career law enforcement officer and served as an instructor for the training and education session. He talked about what a student/applicant can expect when attending the course.

He said safety is the basis of the training.

"First of all, there's range safety, range procedure, range rules….Secondly, there's home safety. So the state wants the student to know how to properly store and secure their weapon at home so that it's not a liability….If you have to deploy that weapon in the community, we want you to know how to safely do that by ensuring your backstop is adequate; that it's safe to shoot," McGechie said.

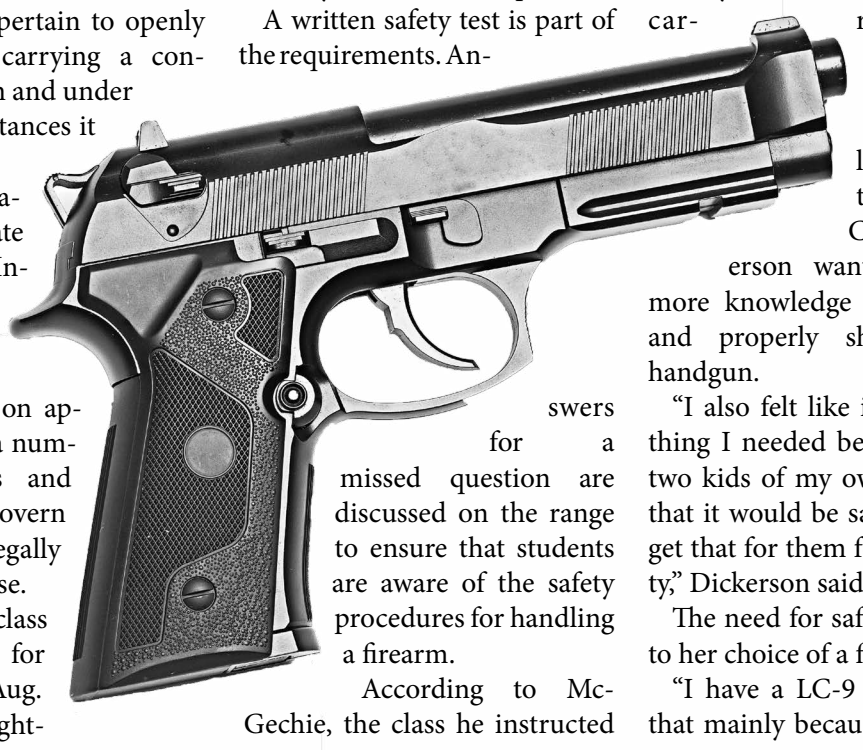
Knowing where your 'trigger finger' is in relation to the firearm is key.

"Keeping their finger out of the trigger guard. What we refer to as the 'primary safety;' your trigger finger, that it's not in the trigger guard or on the trigger until they're ready to discharge that weapon," McGechie said. "There are probably more accidental discharges caused by that than anything."

Maintaining control of the business end of the firearm is also important.

"Secondly, that they're not, what we call, 'muzzling.' They're not pointing the weapon at someone else. They're not pointing at their partner to the left or right, obviously not pointing it at the instructor," McGechie said. "We want them to get that background that they know how to safely handle the weapon."

A written safety test is part of the requirements. Answers for a missed question are discussed on the range to ensure that students are aware of the safety procedures for handling a firearm.



According to McGechie, the class he instructed was pretty typical.

Some were proficient with their firearm and wanted to obtain the license. Others were novices and had never fired their gun before. All of them, he said, had performed well with no safety violations while on the firing line.

The second part of the course involves a review of Oklahoma statutes regarding the carrying and use of firearms. This extensive portion informs students about responsibilities and liabilities as well as when and where a firearm may be carried and used.

McGechie recommended that it might be best to direct questions about specific circumstances and cases to an attorney.

Typically, students taking the course are looking to learn more about shooting and obtaining a Self-Defense Act license for personal, family and home protection.

Student Shawn Taryole explained, "I wanted to get some instruction on how to use my firearm and also learn the laws governing the use of my firearm and I thought it would be something very knowledgeable for myself."

The numbers of recent violent crimes involving the use of guns prompted him to take advantage of the opportunity provided by MCN Lighthorse.

"It weighed a lot on my mind and, like I said; I wanted the proper instruction on if I ever was in one of those situations and to know how to handle myself and handle myself properly," Taryole said.

Taryole does not plan to carry his pistol either openly or concealed, but legally wants that option.

Chelsea Dickerson wanted to gain more knowledge about safely and properly shooting her handgun.

"I also felt like it was something I needed because I have two kids of my own. I figured that it would be safe for me to get that for them for their safety," Dickerson said.

The need for safety extended to her choice of a firearm.

"I have a LC-9 Ruger. I got that mainly because it has two safety features on it and I figured that would be the best—as much safety as there is on it for both of my kids," Dickerson said.

Dickerson said the weapon is stored in a lock box for safety.

Like Taryole, Dickerson said that she probably would not utilize the legal carry option.

"I guess I would take it if I wasn't familiar with a place, but other than that; I wouldn't carrying it that much," Dickerson said. "Just basically home protection."

Firearms are prohibited on MCN property.

According to Northcross, dates for further courses have yet to be determined.

Information on conceal/carry laws and application requirements are available at: www.ok.gov/osbi/Handgun_Licensing/index.html.

"We want them to get that background that they know how to safely handle the weapon."

- Chuck McGechie, Instructor
Oklahoma Self-Defense Act Course

MCN Head Start celebrates 35 years



MNN/Chelsie Rich
Muscogee (Creek) Nation Head Start Program faculty and staff members gathered Aug. 1 to celebrate 35 years of service.

Employees speak of program benefits

Chelsie Rich/*Project Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Head Start Program commemorated 35 years of service with an anniversary celebration Aug. 1, at the Head Start Building on the MCN Tribal Complex in Okmulgee.

Head Start faculty and staff members gathered to commemorate the past and look forward to the years come.

"We're celebrating 35 years as having a Head Start program within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. We've been here since January 1979," said Head Start Manager Susanna Barnett.

The MCN Head Start Program started with one facility in Yeager, Okla., and has grown to 11 locations.

There are Head Start centers located in Checotah, Eufaula, Okemah, Okmulgee, Tulsa and Wetumka, Okla.

The Head Start Program also collaborates with Allen, Dewar, Gypsy, Midway and Wainwright Public Schools.

The mission of the program is to ensure a quality learning experience through teamwork with families, communities and staff on a continued basis.

"We are a learning facility and we prepare our children and get them ready for the next phase of their education," said Barnett.

To help fulfill their mission, Head Start center supervisors started conducting monthly meetings to facilitate a uniform and streamlined process for all centers.

"That way we're all on the same page as far as activities, enrollment, any questions and trainings," Wetumka Head Start Supervisor and Family Community Engagement Advocate Janice Birdcreek said.

Each center conducts monthly parent meetings and also offers training for parents.

"When children come into the Head Start, we work with the whole family," Birdcreek said. "We try to get the children ready for the public school and then we also try to help our parents to be self-sufficient and advocate for their children once they do get into the public schools."

The overall goal of Head Start is to bring about a greater degree of social competence in children who may be economically and educationally disadvantaged.

"We're Head Start. We're a unique program," Barnett said.

Head Start is based on the premise that three to five-year-old children from income eligible families can benefit from a social and educational program.

For more information about the MCN Head Start program call: 918-732-7906, or go online to: www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov/Pages/HeadStart/headstart.html.

Applications for MCN Head Start are available online at the URL listed above or may be picked up at any MCN Head Start center.

Prayer network donates backpacks



Contribution assists families in need

Jessica McBride/*Editorial Assistant*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Tennessee Reformation Prayer Network based out of Hendersonville, Tenn., donated 75 backpacks to Muscogee (Creek) children through the Morningstar Evangelistic Center in Mounds, Okla.

TRPN State Director Kim Driver met Muscogee (Creek) citizen and MEC pastor Dr. Negiel Bigpond through the prayer group, and had a desire to assist children in his area.

"I just asked, 'what's the need with the children?'" Driver said. "And, you know; it's not a lot but it's a small part and I know that every little bit helps."

MEC received the backpacks filled with school supplies and passed them out to organizations in the area where a large majority of Muscogee (Creek) children live and attend school.

"While it may not seem like much, we are very appreciative that they have decided to do this and bless some children who may need some assistance," Bigpond's daughter Tonya Standley said.

Each backpack contains typical school supplies that pertain to elementary, middle school and high school age groups.

This is Driver's eighth year donating backpacks and school supplies to children.

"It's my third year with the Native American children and my second year with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation," Driver said.

This year, TRPN was able to donate 378 backpacks to children. Outside of MCN, the organization donated backpacks to Choctaw, Chickasaw and Seminole children.

"It's just an honor and a joy to do," Driver said.

Duck Creek Indian Community was one of the groups that received contributions.

DCIC File Clerk Janice Flowers said that the families are excited to have new supplies for the upcoming school year.

"This is going to be very appreciated," Flowers said.

2014 Muscogee (Creek) Nation Semiannual Report

The following is a comprehensive report from the first six calendar months of 2014

These high points indicate or serve as evidence of successful outcomes that are a direct result of strategic thinking and planning on the part of this administration

Community Financial Development Institution



- The Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) secured $700,000 in funding to assist Muscogee (Creek) entrepreneurs. CDFI has given 11 loans for the third quarter (April – June). The most they have given since the program started a year ago. The program has helped create jobs for citizens through businesses, such as: a new carpet cleaning company, machine shop and Indian art gallery.

New MCNDH Diabetes Wound Care Program



- A new Wound Care Program is now open as part of the MCN Department of Health's Diabetes Prevention Program. Offering a healthier quality of life, while saving money. It also introduced two podiatrists to the staff.

MCNDH Additions and Improvements

- A new facility planned for Eufaula, Okla.
- New MRI unit at the facility in Okmulgee, Okla.
- An offsite pharmacy refill center is being planned for the building located in Sapulpa on Highway 117 and will open by Oct. 1.
- Three Creek physicians and one non-Native physician were added to the medical staff of the Department of Health in the following specialties: Orthopedic Surgery, Psychiatry, Chiropractic Medicine, and Anesthesiology.



Services to our citizens through the MCN Department of Health are increasing as ground was broken May 16 for the new Creek Nation Community Hospital in Okemah, Okla.

Self-Administered Insurance Plan

- Our self-administered insurance plan operating under the State Unemployment Tax Act is saving the Nation considerable funds. In June, the MCN received a rebate check in the amount of approximately $1.2 million from the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission for unemployment taxes.

Scholarship Foundation Program

- Since 2013, the Scholarship Foundation Program has raised over $150,000 from private and public sector donors. A recent donation drive among employees offered payroll deduction amounts starting at $5 on up per pay period, with many employees contributing.
- The Scholarship Foundation is an initiative that supports our dedication to our citizens to achieve educational goals.

Attorney General's Legal Aid Program

- The Attorney General's legal aid program for citizens has resulted in a projected cost savings of $1.5 million annually as compared to the previous program. The Department assists citizens in the areas of uncontested probates, wills, trusts and uncontested guardianships freeing up resources and funds from other areas of administration.

Fountainhead Property Transfer Act



The Fountainhead Property Transfer Act was introduced in U.S. Congress this quarter, which cedes 18 acres of Corps of Engineers property to the MCN for future development. It is currently pending Congressional approval. – Fountainhead Golf Course, Checotah, Okla.

MCN Listening Meetings



Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Administrator Jerry Wilson addresses Muscogee (Creek) citizen concerns Feb. 1 during an MCN administration Listening Meeting.

NATIONHOOD is practicing 'without,' or interacting with, the outside

PROGRESSIVE THINKING

Progressive Thinking is our Administration's commitment to continuous improvement while economic development is our dedication to growing our resources for the people.

In the area of economic development

- **Closed loans totaling $163,635 to Muscogee (Creek) businesses.**
- **Created 23 Jobs, 83 percent of which are held by Muscogee (Creek) citizens.**
- **There are currently two loans pending approval of $65,000 each, which will create Muscogee (Creek) jobs.**
- **Tribal government and health employees, (not including gaming, and Muscogee Nation Business Enterprises (MNBE) have a combined annual earnings that exceed $70 million from the MCN.**
- **The MCN Tax Commission reduced its debt obligation from $74 million to $11.5 million while increasing tags, gas and tobacco revenue to over $1 million.**
- **The MCN Cultural Center and Archives recently received a $50,000 grant from Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). The money will be available Oct. 1 for the upkeep and care for the Council House Collection.**
- **The Fiscal Year 2013 Single Audit and Comprehensive Annual Financial Report were completed and submitted to the federal government.**
- **The Information Technology, (IT) Department eliminated redundancy in providers resulting in a cost savings of $167,660 per year. Further savings were made by eliminating $2000 in monthly Internet fees at the Citizenship Office. IT consolidated copiers and printers across the complex resulting in annual savings exceeding $100,000.**
- **Tribal government cell phone contracts were eliminated and providers agreed to eliminate activation fees and provide individual employees with a government rate, resulting in savings in excess of $100,000 annually.**
- **The Health Department acquired a hospital in Okmulgee that had a debt exceeding $4 million. That debt as of now is around $300,000.**
- **The Interior Department's cattle operation sold 47 steers for $78,000. Hanna Farms is currently cultivating wheat and anticipates 23 bushels per acre as compared to the western side of Oklahoma, which yielded about 5.5 bushels per acre. The watermelons aren't ready for harvest, but the crop will be the best in six years. There are over 60 vendors waiting to fill orders of watermelon.**
- **Housing Management assisted Muscogee (Creek) homebuyers this quarter with 375 office visits, 2,289 telephone calls, 184 re-certifications, 16 new move-ins, 142 annual inspections, five home visits, 20 court hearings, and two deeds file.**
- **The Tribal Employment Rights Office (TERO) has certified 131 Native owned businesses. A total of 44 Muscogee (Creek) citizen owned businesses are on the TERO certified vendor list.**
- **Our Higher Education Program has assisted 527 students with grants or scholarship awards funded by six programs administered by the Higher Education staff. Total expenditures for grants of the six programs are $559,311.**
- **Muscogee (Creek) Nation has the highest funded Tribal Transit Program in the United States with $1.9 million in the annual budget. This Transit Program has received extra federal funds to supplement services because of the success they have demonstrated in using funds wisely and strategically.**

College of the Muscogeee Nation



- The College of the Muscogee Nation has generated over $7 million in grant funds to pay for the cost of facilities and is now eligible to receive federal funding under the Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities Assistance Act.
- The College has been recommended for initial accreditation; and now has over 200 enrolled students per semester, with approximately 90 percent being Muscogee (Creek) citizens.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Council House

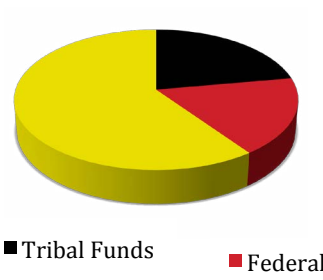
- A Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Architectural and Engineering Services for the Council House was put out for bid on April 11, 2014. On May 16, 2014, the Council House Restoration Committee conducted interviews at the Council House and selected one to complete the first phase of the project. Construction will soon begin on the revival of our beloved Council House.



Bacone College Campus Road Project



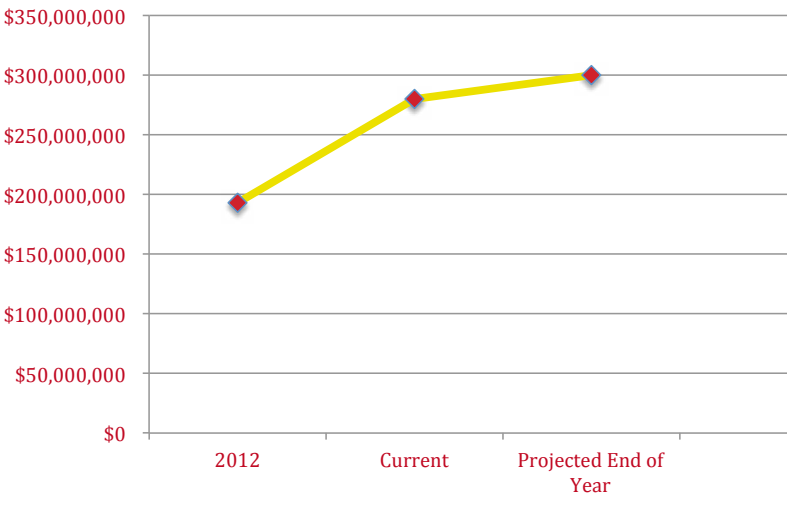
- With cooperation of the National Council, we completed a roads project at Bacone College in June 2014 that will provide better access for students attending that institution. The Nation's funding source for this project was federal funds in the amount of $1 million. In fact, during this administration we have had a record number of roads and bridges projects using federal funds in various parts of the Nation. Leveraging of federal funds is a progressive tool toward making lasting ties in our communities.



2014 MCN Tribal Funds Budget

- For Fiscal Year 2014, the controller reports there is $130.4 million in the Tribal funds budget. Also, the Nation additionally operates programs with over $104 million provided by federal grants for a total of $234 million in the tribal annual budget. Our net position combining cash, capital, investments, assets, the Permanent Fund and the like is $585 million.

Growth of MCN Permanent Fund



- The Office of the Treasury is pleased to announce that the Nation's Permanent Fund, our Nation's nest egg, is doing well and has grown to a market value of $280 million. We expect it to continue to grow in value to $300 million by the end of the year. Two years ago, this fund was $193 million, meaning we have seen the permanent fund grow by $89 million, $50 million of which is from investments.

PEOPLEHOOD

Peoplehood comes from 'within,' the collective will of the people.

Language Preservation Program



- The Language Program staff is working on a language application for downloading the Mvskoke Language to iPads, iPhones and Androids for learning the language and getting translations. Staff is developing a Mvskoke audio dictionary that will be offered to citizens.

- The first ever language survey is in circulation. Up to this point, 12 percent of the citizens polled are well-versed in the Mvskoke language. However, the findings indicate a strong desire to learn.

- The Language Program collaborated with local churches for the first ever Vacation Bible School as part of the Language Immersion Program. Teaching children Creek hymns, bible verses and the importance of preservation through these avenues.

Mvskoke History Course



- The first ever "Mvskoke History" class is now offered. Our Administration developed and implemented the class, which is mandatory for each employee of the Nation.

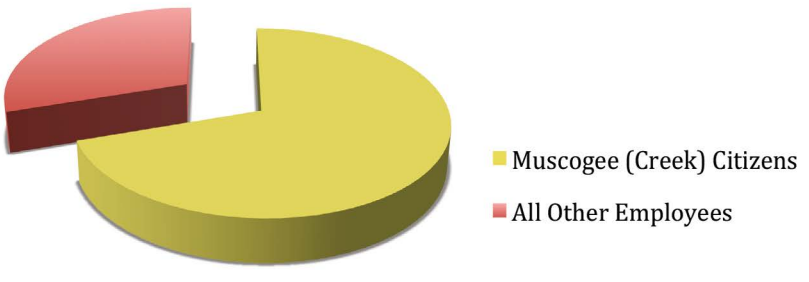
- The majority of the workforce is now considered official ambassadors of the MCN.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Citizenship Office



- To date, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation has 76,746 Muscogee (Creek) citizens enrolled.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Employees



- The MCN Administration and Gaming together employs approximately 5,000 people. Seventy percent of them, or about 3500 are Muscogee (Creek) citizens.

MCN Day at Oklahoma State Capitol





- In May, the MCN Public Relations Department coordinated the first ever Muscogee (Creek) Nation Day at the State Capitol during the Legislative Session.

- More than 20 programs attended which included, over 70 employees presenting information and educational materials to the public, legislators, legislative staff and government employees.

MCN Tribal Transportation Department

- Charley LaSarge was appointed as a member of 'The Governor's Oklahoma United We Ride Council.' This Council was created in 2004 by executive order and is meeting needs and raising the public awareness of Oklahoma transportation services. Their focus is on services to elders, people with disabilities and those with low income.



- Our MCN Transportation Department received the 2013 Transit Marketing Award for Excellence from the Oklahoma Transit Association, in partnership with KATS.

- Higher Education had 34 Creek citizens graduate in spring 2014, comprised of 30 bachelor's, two associates and two master's.
- Mvskoke Media received 17 awards from the Native American Journalists Association ranging from General Excellence in Radio, Best Coverage of Native Americans in Print and Best Feature Story.
- The MCN Reintegration Program, directed by Tony Fish, was awarded the 2014 National Criminal Justice Association Outstanding Criminal Justice Program Award and staff attended the National Forum on Criminal Justice in Breckenridge, Colo., to accept the award.
- MCN Principal Chief George Tiger was honored with the Helen Chupco Award from the Oklahoma Federation of Indian Women.
- Tiger was also recognized as 'National Tribal Leader of the Year' by the Native American Finance Officers Association (NAFOA).































PEOPLEHOOD comes from 'within,' the collective will of the people

Rock Creek - Bingo - Table Games - Electronic Games

DIAMOND CLUB BLITZ



This facility is regulated by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Office of Public Gaming

Diamond Club Free Play Blitz
Sundays NOON - 6:00PM
Mondays 6:00PM - 10:00PM

Ten (10) $10 Free Play Hot Seat prize drawings every 15 minutes at the Main Casino or Travel Plaza. Players CAN win more than once per day!

POKER FOOTBALL SPLASH POTS

September 8th - December 22nd 2014.
From kickoff until the end during Monday Night football games

One (1) random poker table will get $100 splash at the end of every quarter of the designated Monday Night football game(s). All other tables splashed with $25.

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Prevention efforts highlighted in wake of celebrity suicide

Statistics show high rates among Native Americans

Jessica McBride/*Editorial Assistant*



Shutterstock

OKMULGEE, Okla. — On Aug. 11, fans around the world were shocked to hear that actor and comedian Robin Williams had taken his own life.

News outlets broadcast memorials and highlights from Williams' life; mention his long time struggle with mental illness.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Behavioral Health Services and Substance Abuse Program Coordinator and Clinician Leslie Crow said that suicide is not a fun topic of discussion, but that this passing is an opportunity to talk about mental illness, depression and suicide prevention.

"Taking that tragedy and using it as an opportunity to learn from it basically is the most important thing. We don't want to glamorize it," Crow said.

The news comes a month prior to National Suicide Prevention Week Sept. 7-13.

According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, in 2012, Native Americans were more likely than any other race or ethnicity to have suicidal thoughts within the past year.

"It is very prevalent among Native American populations," Crow said. "As a whole, the Native American population have a lot of risk factors that make them at greater risk for suicidal behaviors and suicide attempts."

Crow said that risk factors among Native Americans include: substance abuse, poverty, isolation, lack of resources and access to services.

For each suicide, there are around eight survivors or individuals who feel they are directly affected by the loss.

"Survivors, especially children of someone who completed suicide, are four times at greater risk of becoming suicidal," Crow said.

In her prevention efforts, Crow said that she tries to educate people about means restrictions to keep items like firearms and prescription drugs away from individuals who have suicidal thoughts or mental health issues.

The Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics provides dropboxes for unused prescription drugs around Oklahoma. Most sites are located at a police station or sheriffs office.

Dropbox sites can be found at: https://portal.obn.ok.gov/takeback/default.aspx.

"They're where you can just put stuff in them," Crow said. "You don't have to talk to the police. They don't ask any questions or anything like that."

Crow said that disposing of unused prescription drugs in the trash can be dangerous for animals and flushing the pills could be bad for the environment.

The U.S. Department of Justice Drug Enforcement Administration will host a National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day Sept. 27. Locations for the event will be provided Sept. 1 at: www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/index.html.

According to Crow, BHS also has free gunlocks to help prevent misuse of firearms.

The department also suggests being direct with those suspected of being depressed or experiencing suicidal thoughts and asking them if they are thinking of killing themselves as a means to begin dialogue.

"The research shows that people said that when someone asked them, it was a huge relief," Crow said. "It opens up the lines of communication and it reduces their anxiety and it gives them a chance to talk about it."

BHS also invites those who have questions about mental health or are concerned about a loved one to call BHS or the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at: 1-800-273-8255.

The hotline is a national number where callers are directed to a local call center to receive information on services in the area. Oklahoma has call centers in Oklahoma City and Tulsa.

The MCN Department of Health has also started depression screenings at clinics for adults.

"A huge percentage of people who attempted suicide had been to their doctor within a month prior to the attempt," Crow said. "So, research like that is showing that primary care physicians and health care settings and health care workers might be in a good position to help with prevention."

BHS has scheduled a Hope Walk Sept. 10, from 4-6 p.m. at the MCN Mound Building in Okmulgee.

If you or someone you know needs help, call the MCN Behavioral Health Department at: 918-758-1930 or the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at: 1-800-273-TALK.

"Anyone who's experiencing depression or suicidal thoughts or has a family member that has attempted suicide or has completed suicide; they're not alone," Crow said. "They need to know that they're not alone and that help and support is out there."

A message from MCN Environmental Services

Tips to save on energy costs and the earth

Media Release

OKMULGEE, Okla. — According to the United States Census, the current United States population is over 315 million and gaining one person every fifteen seconds. At this rate, America will have 400 million people by 2025. With such a large population, this country is consuming energy at an alarming rate. Energy consumption at this level is rapidly depleting natural resources and causing a worldwide energy crisis. The current demand for water, electricity, and fossil fuels is at an all-time high.



Many times, as individuals, it seems there is not much we can do to make a difference in the face of a worldwide energy crisis. Air pollution, global warming, expensive water, gas and electric bills, as well as blackouts are all issues that, as U.S. citizens, we view now as normal, everyday life. I can assure that we will not be able to consume at this rate and be "normal" for too much longer.

In this brief article, I wish to suggest some helpful ideas that will conserve energy, namely water and electricity, in your household.

Electricity as an energy source is becoming more and expensive and harder to generate. The average electric bill in the United States is currently over $122 per month. Hawaii pays the most with an average monthly electric bill of $203. New Mexico pays the least per month average, at $74.

There are several ways to save energy and save some money at the same time. The first is UNPLUGGING. The average homeowner saves at minimum $10 a month by unplugging chargers and seldom used appliances. Another great practice is unplugging power strips. Most power strips have a standby energy consumption of 75-100 watts and use as much power as a light being left on, even when not in use. Lastly, always turn out the light switch in unused areas. These three practices for conserving electric are simple, yet can make a huge impact on your bill and your environment.

Water is essential to the survival of every living creature. The freshwater that we have in the United States usually comes from a source controlled by the city, or on occasion from groundwater from drilled wells. The average cost is around $1.50 per 1,000 gallons and going up.

There are several easy steps you can take to assure that you are conserving as much water as you can.

First, be a leak detective. Go over your entire water system, all pipes, and connections, faucets, lavratories, toilets, ect., to ensure there are no visible leaks. Water plants in the early morning to avoid much evaporation. Water plants deeply and less frequently to promote root growth and tolerance to drought. Use two to four inches of organic mulch around plants reduce evaporation and conserve water. Use a broom instead of water hose for clearing sidewalks and patios. Lastly, use a pan instead of running water for rinsing fruit and vegetables. In the end, these energy conserving tips will not only save you water, they will save you money.

Hopefully, you realize how important conserving energy is. Not only for your pocket book, but for the future, and your children's future. Take every opportunity you can to save, recycle and make a difference. Save water and electricity at every chance. As Native Americans, we realize the gift that is the Earth and should always strive to respect it.

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Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court



Name and Address | **Property** | **Date of Possession**

Roy Smith Unknown Unknown	Jennings 22 Cal., Serial # 5799093	10/03/2011
Kyle M. Seabolt 600 Cumberland Dr. Muskogee, OK 74403	Jimenez 380 Cal. Semi-Auto, Serial #175354 with Holster AND One set of Brass Knuckles	01/21/2012
Robert Forister Unknown Unknown	Taurus 9mm Cal. Semi-Auto., Serial #TDN54398	04/05/2013
Michael Haley Unknown Unknown	H&S German 22 Cal., Serial # 321227	11/02/2013
Michael Hicks Unknown Unknown	Davis Industries 380 Cal. Semi-Auto., Serial #AP259206	01/12/2006
Raymond Jones Unknown Unknown	Bryco 380 Cal. Semi-Auto with Holster, Serial # None	Unknown
Unclaimed/No Owner	Marlin 22 Cal. Rifle, Serial # 16358054	02/02/2003
Unclaimed/No Owner	Stevens 410 Ga. Shotgun, Serial #E060927; Marlin 60 22 Cal. Rifle Serial #OKO11780; Glenfield 75C 22 Cal. Rifle, Serial #23376715; Mossberg 22 Cal. Rifle, Serial # None	08/02/2003
Kirby Stellings Unknown Unknown	Lakefield 22 Cal. Rifle, Serial # 909446	05/27/2004
Unclaimed/No Owner	410 Ga. Shotgun, Serial #A631943	07/18/2004
Unclaimed/No Owner	BB Gun	02/23/2005

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

DISTRICT COURT FILED
2014 AUG 20 PM 2 59
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
DONNA BEAVER
COURT CLERK

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION ATTORNEY GENERAL on behalf of MUSCOGEE (CREEK), NATION LIGHTHORSE, Plaintiff,
vs.
CERTAIN PROPERTY, whether stolen, embezzled, lost, abandoned or otherwise obtained being unknown or unclaimed, Defendant.

Case No.: CV 2014- 161

APPLICATION FOR DISPOSITION OF PERSONAL PROPERTY AND/OR FIREARM(S)

COMES NOW the Muscogee (Creek) Nation in accordance with MCNCA, Title 14, § 1-901(I)(G) *et seq.*, and presents its *Application* to the court seeking judicial supervision over the disposition of certain property and/or firearm(s) presently secured in the property room of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthorse Police Department. In support thereof, your applicant states:

1. Attached hereto, identified as "Exhibit A", is a list of personal property items and/or firearm(s). The exhibit identifies each item of property proposed for disposition, together with any identifying numbers or marks, the date the property came into possession of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, and the name and address, if known, of any person presently assumed to own any of the itemized property and/or firearm(s).

2. Each item of property and/or firearm(s) has been in custody of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthorse Police Department for at least six (6) months and its continued retention by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation is not needed for evidentiary purposes or for any other purpose in connection with any litigation.

3. This Court, pursuant to the referenced statute, has jurisdiction and authority to act upon the presented application.

WHEREFORE, premises considered, it is requested that this court set the application for hearing. Upon hearing, it is requested that the court adjudicate any uncertain or disputed claims of ownership of the listed property and/or firearm(s) with reference to any property and/or firearm(s) for which ownership claim is not presented or proven, that your applicant be authorized to dispose of all such property in the manner provided by law.

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION

By:
Shelly Harrison, Prosecutor
Muscogee (Creek) Nation
Department of Justice
P.O. Box 580
Okmulgee, OK 74447
(918) 295-9720

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

DISTRICT COURT FILED
2014 AUG 20 PM 3 00
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
DONNA BEAVER
COURT CLERK

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION ATTORNEY GENERAL on behalf of MUSCOGEE (CREEK), NATION LIGHTHORSE, Plaintiff,
vs.
CERTAIN PROPERTY, whether stolen, embezzled, lost, abandoned or otherwise obtained being unknown or unclaimed, Defendant.

Case No.: CV 2014- 161

ORDER SETTING HEARING

NOW on this 20 day of August 2014, comes on for hearing the Motion to Set for Hearing submitted by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. The Court, being advised in the premises, finds that the above-entitled action should be set for Disposition.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the above-entitled case is set for **Disposition** on November 10, 2014 @ 1:30 pm to be heard in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that notice of the hearing shall be given to the parties as required by law.

DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

EXHIBIT A

Name and Address | **Property** | **Date of Possession**

Ellis R. Parker Unknown Unknown	22 Cal. Revolver Serial # 1162276 and Ammunition	12/23/2004
Eugenio Gomez Unknown Unknown	Titan 25 Cal. Semi-Auto Serial #237457	11/04/2004
Marvine Delgado Unknown Unknown	Titan 25 Cal. Semi-Auto. Serial #D876414	02/11/2005
Stephen Louis Nelson Rt. 2 Box 250K-1 Sapulpa, OK 74067	Black Taurus 9mm Semi-Auto., Serial #TMI11177D and One (1) Black Magazine	06/14/2005
David W. Gapnica Unknown Unknown	25 Cal. Semi-Auto., Serial #253807	08/12/2005
Unclaimed/ No Owner	Luger 380 Cal. Semi-Auto Serial #022069 AND Smith and Wesson 38 Cal., Serial # BPL2503	06/02/2006
Unclaimed/No Owner	9mm Semi-Auto, Serial #34717 AND 9mm Semi-Auto, Serial # 55787	08/03/2006
Joshua Alexander 41st and Sheridan Normandy Apts. Tulsa, OK	Camouflage Lorcin 25 Cal. Semi-Auto handgun, Serial # LT095497	05/20/2007
Charles Tucker 7210 Cameron Street Tulsa, OK 74127	Jennings Firearms Model 48 380 Cal., Semi-Auto, Serial # 061761	06/23/20047

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

DISTRICT COURT FILED
2014 AUG 20 PM 3 00
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
DONNA BEAVER
COURT CLERK

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION ATTORNEY GENERAL on behalf of MUSCOGEE (CREEK), NATION LIGHTHORSE, Plaintiff,
vs.
CERTAIN PROPERTY, whether stolen, embezzled, lost, abandoned or otherwise obtained being unknown or unclaimed, Defendant.

Case No.: CV 2014- 161

MOTION TO SET FOR HEARING

COMES NOW the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, by and through Shelly Harrison, Prosecutor, and requests that the above matter be set for disposition at least ten (10) days and no more than twenty (20) days from the date of filing of the Application for Disposition of Personal Property and/or Firearms.

Shelly Harrison, Prosecutor
Muscogee (Creek) Nation
Department of Justice
P.O. Box 580
Okmulgee, OK 74447
918-295-9720

Name and Address | **Property** | **Date of Possession**

Brandon Barnhart Unknown Unknown	Phoenix Arms 22 Cal. Semi-Auto, Serial #4205171	06/07/2007
Barry Newberry 7748 Highway 64 S. Muskogee, OK AND/OR James Henson 624 S. "B" Street Muskogee, OK	Jimenez Arms 9mm Semi-Auto Serial #039950	12/22/2007
D'Angelo Day 1308 N. Aster Ave. Broken Arrow, OK 74012	Hi Point Firearms Model CF380 Serial #P797139	01/12/2008
Mark D. Cardwell Unknown Unknown	Raven Arms 25 Cal. Semi-Auto., Serial #1718562	02/02/2008
Dane H. Howk Unknown Unknown	Norinco 9mm Semi-Auto., Serial #29065379	04/07/2008
Jeremy Lewis 1108 Fremont Muskogee, OK 74401	Taurus 9mm Semi-Auto., Serial #84795	10/02/2008
Brandyn Draper 300 N. 40th Street, #702 Muskogee, OK 74401	Jimenez Arms 9mm Semi-Auto., Serial #054531	10/13/2008
Jimmy J. Lokowski 118 S. 8th Street Okemah, OK 74859	Brown Pistol Carrier; HandyCam recorder, Serial # 1478670; Laptop power cords; speakers; Acer Laptop, Serial # LXAZLOY08371915D7A2500; Ten CDs with Cases; Lithium Battery; Four memory cards; One Card Reader; One Sony Ericsson Cell Phone; Two Zip Files	08/16/2009

Name and Address | **Property** | **Date of Possession**

Shawn Fairchilds HC 63 Box 206 Eufaula, OK 74432	Ruger 7mm Rifle, Serial #7474248 with Scope; Winchester 7mm Rifle Serial #G2198544 with Scope	01/21/2008
Neil A. Peterson 5065 Hunters Run Colorado Springs, CO 80911	H&R 410 Shotgun, Serial #AZ432978	08/10/2009
Jason East 5101 S. Cherokee Street Muskogee, OK 74403	Remington 12 Gauge Pump Serial #C832233N	09/08/2009
Cody V. Evans 14820 Hectorville Rd. Mounds, OK 74047	Marlin 22 Mag Cal. Rifle, Serial #18718121	02/26/2012
David Jacobs Unknown Unknown	Stevens 22 Cal. Rifle Serial #187A2094577	10/02/2013
Brian Givens Unknown Unknown	New England Arms 410 Gauge Shotgun, Serial # NS362314	01/09/2014
Jesse Wyrick Unknown Unknown	Glenfield 60 22 Cal. Rifle, Serial #25352162	03/26/2007
Unclaimed/No Owner	12 Ga. Shotgun, Serial # C897770	11/28/1995
Unclaimed/No Owner	Winchester 94 30-30 Rifle, Serial #4856807	04/05/1997

MCNDH hosts MCN Listening Meeting

Principal chief, cabinet members address concerns

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

WETUMKA, Okla. — A Listening Meeting was sponsored by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health Aug. 9 at the MCN Southern Regional Office in Wetumka.

This was the third Listening Meeting held by MCN. The other two were held in Okmulgee and Muskogee, Okla.

MCN Principal Chief George Tiger, along with MCN cabinet members were on hand to answer citizens' questions.

Tiger told the audience what the listening meetings were for.

"We want to hear what you have to say; our citizens," Tiger said. "We work for you. So we want to hear the questions and concerns that you may have for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation."

Each cabinet member came up to the podium to give the audience an update on their departments.

After the cabinet members spoke, questions were taken from the audience about topics including: the MCNDH, Tag Agency, Department of Community and Human Services, Reintegration Program and employment in and around the Wetumka area.

Secretary of Health Lt. Cmdr. Seneca Smith was pleased with the overall turnout and questions that the audience had for the administration.

"This was a great turnout for the Listening Meeting," Smith said. "It shows the concerns that our citizens have for our Nation. They have questions and they want answers to those questions. We want to help out our citizens in anyway."

Smith also spoke on the importance of having the listening meetings for citizens.

"There are always going to be concerns with not only the Nation, but the departments as well," Smith said. "Having the sessions will help the citizens be able to get some of their questions answered and the concerns get taken care of. It is very important and exciting for us to hold these sessions to see what we can help get fixed and established."

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Tilda Harjo from Wetumka was delighted that the meeting was held in her hometown. One of her concerns, along with other citizens, is that they feel that citizens who live south of Interstate 40 get ignored when it comes to MCN services.

"We are making strides with the clinics and the services that they're bringing," Harjo said. "I am very glad that we had this so there can be an open line of communication. Without communication, we cannot get anything solved."

Smith hopes MCN citizens will continue utilizing the listening meetings.

"I encourage our citizens that if they have a listening session in their area, go to it with the concerns that you have," Smith said.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Community and Tribal Events

MCNBA announces new officers

MCNBA/*Media Release*

OKMUGLEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Bar Association recently elected officers for the 2014-2015 term. This year's elected officers are: Shanna Burgin, President; Shelly Harrison, Vice-President; and Greg Meier, Secretary-Treasurer.

Shanna Burgin serves as an Assistant Attorney General for the MCN Department of Justice. Shanna's work at the MCN includes representation of the Nation in regards to the Indian Child Welfare Act in state court dependency and neglect proceedings.

Prior to working for the Nation, Shanna was in private practice. Ms. Burgin received her Bachelor of Science degree at Oklahoma State University. She earned her law degree from the University of Colorado, Boulder, which included clinical work through the American Indian Law Clinic. She is a Muscogee (Creek) citizen.

Shelly Harrison serves as the Prosecutor for the MCN. In addition to her work as prosecutor, Shelly also serves as an appellate judge for the United Keetoowah Band of the Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma.

Prior to coming to work at the MCN Attorney General Office, Shelly worked as a criminal defense attorney for the Oklahoma Indigent Defense System. She currently serves on the Diversity Committee of the OBA as well as being a 2012 graduate of the OBA Leadership Academy and is a participant of the OBA 'Lawyers in the Classroom' program.

Shelly received her law degree at Oklahoma City University. She is a citizen of the Cherokee Nation. Greg Meier, of Meier & Associates, has provided legal services across Oklahoma for almost 40 years. Mr. Meier's general practice firm serves individuals, families and businesses, with the vast majority of his practice devoted to litigation.

In addition to the Oklahoma Bar, Mr. Meier is admitted to practice before MCN courts, Cherokee Nation courts, the United States District Court for the Northern District of Oklahoma, the United States Court of appeals for the Fifth and Tenth Circuits and the Supreme Court of the United States. Mr. Meier earned his law degree from the University of Oklahoma College of Law.

Congratulations to this year's MCNBA officers!

For information regarding how to apply for membership in the MCNBA or for a list of MCNBA members, visit www.mcnbar.org.

DCIC Elections set for September

BEGGS, Okla. — The Duck Creek Indian Community elections are scheduled for the September community meeting.

The following offices are open: chairman, vice-chair, secretary and treasurer.

OIC election set for Sept. 3

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Okmulgee Indian Community has set an officer election and constitutional review for Sept. 3 from 6-8 p.m.

Indigenous Conference set for Sept. 8-9

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The second annual Indigenous Peoples Corn Conference is set for Sept. 8-9 at the Mvskoke Dome Building in Okmulgee.

For more information including booth space contact Stephanie Berryhill at: 918-759-0817 or sberryhill@mvskokefood.org.

Treaty Council set for Sept. 10-12

OKEMAH, Okla. — The 40th anniversary of the International Indian Treaty Council is set for Sept. 10-12 at the Phillip Deere Round House in Okemah.

To register visit: http://bitly/IITC_40AnnualReg.

For more information contact Jackie Warledo at: 405-683-5003, jackie@treatycouncil.org or visit: www.treatycouncil.org.

TCIC Elections set for Sept. 18

TULSA, Okla. — The Tulsa Creek Indian Community has set an election for the chairperson, secretary, treasurer and sergeant-at-arms board positions for Sept. 18 from 6-8 p.m.

For more information contact Roman Powell at: 918-695-2781.

Benefit tournament set for Sept. 19

CHECOTAH, Okla. — The first annual Swing for Education Benefit Golf Tournament hosted by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Scholarship Foundation is set for Sept. 19 at Fountainhead Golf Course near Checotah.

For more information call: 918-732-7754.

Fall Festival set for Sept. 27

CHECOTAH, Okla. — The Heartland Heritage Center has scheduled the second annual Fall Festival Art Show and Sale for Sept. 27 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

For more information including booth spaces contact Frankie Blagg at: 918-916-9015 or Iris Park at: 405-570-3569.

Dwight Mission Alumni Reunion set for Oct. 4

MARBLE CITY, Okla. — A reunion for the alumni of Dwight Mission is set for Oct. 4 at the mission dining room.

Registration will be from 8:30 - 10 a.m. and the program will begin at 10 a.m. Lunch is scheduled for 12 p.m. and please RSVP by Sept. 29.

Bring your family, school picture and friends. For more information, contact Levada Smith-Wildcat at: 918-773-3096.

Beauty pageant set for Jan. 17, 2015

GLENPOOL, Okla. — A Native beauty pageant is set for Jan. 17, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. during the Elite Home, Health, Fashion Expo, located at the Glenpool Conference Venue.

The expo will run Jan. 17-18, 2015. To register as a contestant, vendor or sponsor contact Rosie at: rosieseliteexpos@gmail.com.

MCN Southern Regional Office September schedule

Media Release

WETUMKA, Okla. — The following is the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Southern Regional Office schedule for September 2014.

Sept. 1
Closed for Labor Day

Sept. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
Tax Commission
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
TERO
9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Sept. 3, 17
Social Services
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Child Support Enforcement
8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Sept. 5, 8, 10, 15, 19, 22, 24, 29
Social Services
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Sept. 12, 26
Social Services
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
WIC
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

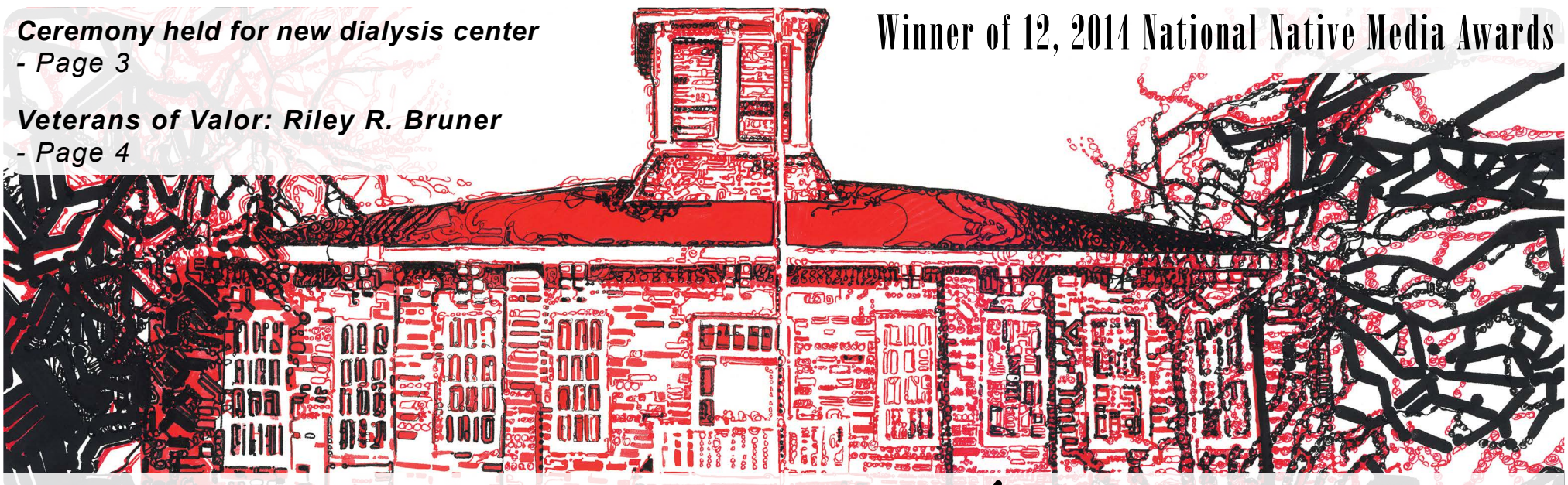




Ceremony held for new dialysis center
- Page 3

Veterans of Valor: Riley R. Bruner
- Page 4

Winner of 12, 2014 National Native Media Awards



Muscogee Nation News

Mvskoke Media production — The official tribal newspaper of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation

Sept. 15, 2014

Vol. 44, Issue 18
"Otowoskuce"
Little Chestnut Month

MCN amends tobacco compact with State of Oklahoma

New deal increases financial advantage for tribe

Chelsie Rich/*Project Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger and the MCN Tax Commission held a meeting with tobacco wholesalers and MCN smoke shop owners and managers Aug. 25 at the Mvskoke Dome building in Okmulgee to discuss the changes in the tobacco tax compact between MCN and the State of Oklahoma.

The compact governs how revenue is split between the state and MCN from taxes collected on the retail sale of cigarettes and other tobacco products sold within the Nation's jurisdiction by MCN entities.

It allows MCN entities to sell tobacco products at a discounted rate while still paying Oklahoma taxes.

Tiger signed off on the original compact in August 2012, with an agreement in place that the compact could be renegotiated.



MNN/Chelsie Rich

Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin and Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger sign an amended tobacco compact between MCN and the State of Oklahoma Aug. 27 at the Oklahoma State Capitol building in Oklahoma City.

"When we negotiated the first compact, I asked for an open-end discussion," said Tiger. "If someone had a better compact than us, we were wanting to come back to the table and renegotiate. That's where we're at today."

In the original compact, the state tax charged to MCN was $5.15 per carton but in the new compact, the state tax is lowered to $3.09, which gives MCN a $2.06 advantage per carton until Dec. 31, 2016.

Tiger and Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin signed the updated compact Aug. 27 at the state capitol building in Oklahoma City.

"I think in the past, that there has always been exclusion

Compact - 5

MCN breaks ground for new food distribution center

Coweta facility to help with growing demand

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

COWETA, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Food Distribution Program broke ground Aug. 28 for the new Koweta Food Distribution Center in Coweta.

The new 7,900 square-foot building, located next to the Koweta Indian Health Center, will serve as a distribution site for qualified Native Americans in need of nutritional assistance.

"Chief Tiger and I talked about this when he first came in to office," MCN Food Distribution Program Director Anna Wright said. "He wanted to know where the need was for food distribution centers. This area is growing and getting bigger everyday."

The Food Distribution Program serves low income Native American households, as an alternative to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.



MNN/Darren DeLaune

Muscogee (Creek) Nation officials break ground Aug. 28 for the new Koweta Food Distribution Center in Coweta, Okla.

According to Wright, the new center will serve over 300 families in the northeastern part of the MCN jurisdiction. Currently, these families have to stand in line for their food at a tailgate site once a month.

"Having a center for the people in and around Coweta will be more suitable for them," Wright said. "If people missed the tailgate to pick up their food, they would have to drive to Okmulgee and for some that is an inconvenience. This will make it much more easier."

This is the tribe's third distribution center. The other two are located in Okmulgee and Wetumka, Okla. The new facility, like the existing two, will be equipped to provide families with food assistance and accessibility comparable to a trip to the local grocery

Distribution - 2

Law amended regarding community gaming during Council session

Forensic audit services approved

Sterling Cosper/*MNN Editor*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A regular session of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council was held Aug. 23 at the MCN Mound Building in Okmulgee.

The Council addressed the following legislation:

- NCR 14-004 A resolution of the MCN National Council approving the forensic audit consulting services agreement between the Council and REDW LLC (assisted by Hogan Taylor LLP). The resolution, which was sponsored by Reps. Thomas Yahola, Frank Coachman, David Hill and Lucian Tiger, passed 15-0.
- TR 14-103 Approving a revised eligibility admissions and occupancy policy for the MCN Department of Housing. The resolution, which was sponsored by Rep. Mark Randolph, passed 15-0.
- TR 14-121 Confirming the nomination of Jeffrey McCoy to serve on the Gaming Operations Authority Board. Rep. Coachman sponsored the resolution, which passed 12-3 with Reps. Mitch Jack, Dode Barnett and Tiger voting against it.
- TR 14-123 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a clinical affiliation agreement with the University of Oklahoma College of Dentistry on behalf of the MCN Department of Health. Rep. James Jennings sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.
- TR 14-124 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of understanding with the Oklahoma State Department of

Council - 5

MvskokeMedia

MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

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Editorials and letters must be signed by the individual writer and include a traceable address or phone number to be considered for publication.

Please contact our office for deadline of submissions to be considered for inclusion. The **Muscogee Nation News** reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style and grammar. Receipt of submissions does not obligate The **Muscogee Nation News** in any regard.

The **Muscogee Nation News** is mailed from Stigler, Okla., to all enrolled citizens' households upon request and proof of citizenship. Inquiries should be directed to Mvskoke Media. Please include your tribal enrollment number with all correspondence.

To submit a change of address or a letter to the editor, call 918 - 732 - 7720 or send e-mail to: wmurphy@mcn-nsn.gov.

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MCN WIC Program hosts open house



MNN/Chelsie Rich
Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger addresses attendees and participants of the MCN Women, Infants and Children Program open house Aug. 29 at the new WIC building on the MCN Tribal Complex in Okmulgee.

New Women Infants and Children building completed

Chelsie Rich/*Project Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Women, Infants and Children Program hosted an open house Aug. 29 at the new WIC building on the MCN Tribal Complex in Okmulgee.

"I want to extend my appreciation to this program and to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. All the elected officials that were able to work together to make these types of days come to a fruition," MCN Principal Chief George Tiger said.

The mission of the WIC Program is to provide supplemental foods and nutrition education at no cost to eligible pregnant women, postpartum women, breastfeeding women, infants and children residing in Oklahoma.

The WIC Program previously operated out of a double-wide manufactured building.

"It started having a lot of ware and tear… the roof was in major disrepair. We're getting to the point where we were facing health concerns," WIC Manager Katura Bunner said.

In the summer of 2013, WIC started preparing to approach the MCN National Council for an appropriation to fund the new building. NCA 13-142 passed June 29, 2013, approving $521,663.74 for the construction costs.

WIC was temporarily located in the MCN Housing Building conference room from September 2013-July 2014.

MCN Tribal Construction led the project for the new building but was also assisted by MCN Force Account, Facilities, Housing and the SIPS Plant.

The project took under a year to complete.

"We didn't increase our square feet. It's the same as it was before but it's laid out differently," Bunner said. "More for clinic processes so that when participants come in, it's more streamlined."

There are 12 WIC clinics located in Broken Arrow, Coweta, Eufaula, Glenpool, Okemah, Okmulgee, Sapulpa, Seminole, Shawnee, Stroud, Tulsa and Wetumka, Okla.

"We offer breastfeeding education, support, breast pumps, nursing pads," Bunner said.

WIC is an equal opportunity program and a person does not have to be Native American to apply.

To apply for WIC: schedule an appointment and bring proof of pregnancy, identity, residency and income to your first visit.

For more information on the MCN WIC Program call: 1-800-648-2302 or 918-549-2790.

MCN Scholarship Foundation hosts awards reception



MNN/Amanda Rutland
Muscogee (Creek) Nation Higher Education Scholarship Foundation Director Pete Coser addresses attendees during the HESF awards reception Aug. 23 at the MCN Stone Blade Restaurant and Bar in Okmulgee, Okla., to recognize the foundation's 13 scholarship recipients for the fall semester.

Students benefit from private donors

Amanda Rutland/*Media Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Higher Education Scholarship Foundation held an awards reception Aug. 23 at the MCN owned Stone Blade Restaurant and Bar for the fall semester recipients.

There were 13 total recipients, six of which attended the reception.

MCN Principal Chief George Tiger said HESF is important because it provides funding separate from the money the Nation provides through other MCN Department of Education and Training subsidiaries.

"Through the foundation, it allows us to enhance what we are already doing and to allow for us to expand our horizons of who we are able to help in terms of getting an education," Tiger said.

This is the second time HESF has held a reception to recognize recipients. The scholarships ranged from $500-$1500 and were awarded to both out of state and local students.

HESF Resource Development Specialist Kryste Benge said each scholarship had different eligibility requirements.

"Some of them are restricted for veterans. We have had one for single mothers. We have Fighting Cancer for Kat," Binge said.

MCN Community Research and Development Director and scholarship donor Floyd Jones believes this is an opportunity to honor his mother with the Mahaley Tarapalechee Jones Scholarship.

"It is a wonderful opportunity to not only treasure the memory of a wonderful, wonderful person and the greatest teacher in my life, but also to help someone in a meaningful way," Jones said. "It is one thing to say, 'Hey, good job. I am proud of you,' but I wanted to do something special to help maybe a single mom, a single dad out there."

Henry Marsey Harjo Scholarship recipient Shannon Fish said this is the second time she had been awarded this scholarship and it is meaningful to her because of the donor Joy Harjo.

"Considering Joy Harjo is one of my favorite poets; I love her, and the fact this is something she is involved with means a lot. I kind of look up to her in her writing and she inspires me," Fish said.

HESF Director Pete Coser said HESF wants to raise more money for funding in the future.

"To look at 2015, we will be basically going down the same road we have been for about a year and a half now, but additional things we will be doing even maybe looking at a telethon," Coser said.

Distribution

Continued from Page 1

store.

"Anna has this vision of helping our tribe," MCN Principal Chief George Tiger said. "We share the same vision and this is one of those visions that became a reality."

Red Stone Construction Services LLC of Tulsa, Okla., plans to begin construction on the facility Sept. 1 and the estimated completion date is set for March 1, 2015.

For more information contact Wright at: 918-752-7716.

Lighthorse officer fires weapon at vehicle

OSBI investigating incident

Jessica McBride/*Editorial Assistant*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — According to an Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation press release, a driver traveling the wrong direction on Interstate 40 near Henryetta, Okla., was killed Sept. 1, after a Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthorse Police Officer shot at the vehicle.

At approximately 7 a.m., witnesses reported a red Dodge truck driving west in the eastbound lane of I-40 near mile marker 237. Local police officers and the Lighthorse officer responded to stop the vehicle. The driver of the vehicle refused to stop and the Lighthorse officer discharged his weapon.

The release states that the vehicle crashed into a ditch. The driver, Jesse Castillo Jr. of Seminole, Texas, was transported to a local hospital where he was pronounced dead. A female passenger was treated and released.

The Okmulgee County district attorney requested OSBI to investigate the incident. The investigation will provide a report for the district attorney to determine if the shooting was justified.

OSBI has not released the Lighthorse officer's name due to the investigation.

The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner will conduct an autopsy for a ruling on the cause of death. A time frame for the investigation was not provided by OSBI.

According to OSBI Public Information Officer Jessica Brown, the investigation could take several months in order to compile reports from different agencies involved.

"Once we get everything in we have to organize it and typically our reports are hundreds of pages long; and that includes interviews, any kind of results of testing we've done, the autopsy report," Brown said.

According to Lighthorse Police Chief Richard Fixico, the department will also conduct an investigation.

"We will do what we call an internal investigation on it… which basically we will look at his actions versus our policy," Fixico said.

Fixico stated that the officer has been placed on administrative leave pending the OSBI investigation. Per department policy, the officer must attend counseling and be cleared for duty.

MCN partners with MPS for park project



MNN/Amanda Rutland
Members of the Morris community along with Morris Public School and Muscogee (Creek) Nation officials gathered Aug 27 in Morris, Okla., for a groundbreaking ceremony for the Eagle Park project.

Nation funds community walking trail in Morris

Amanda Rutland/*Media Specialist*

MORRIS, Okla. — Community members gathered Aug 27 in an open field next to the Morris Public School Animal Science Building for a groundbreaking ceremony for the Eagle Park project.

The park is a joint venture of MPS, the City of Morris and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

The MCN Transportation Department will contribute a wheelchair accessible walking trail. MCN National Council Rep. David Nichols sponsored TR 13-027 to fund the walking trail and it was signed into law February 2013.

"I just think it is important to work with communities around the area of our tribe to promote good health for our children and everyone involved," Nichols said.

Transportation Department Manager Charley LaSarge said they have designated $175,000 for the project.

"My force account crew that I have on staff, they go in and prepare all the dirt work and ground work up to the point where it needs asphalt, and we bid the asphalt out to different companies," LaSarge said.

The walking trail will be part of a 30-acre park.

MPS Superintendent James Lyons spoke about the importance of the project.

"We don't have an area for our people to walk and exercise and wellness is so important in lifelong activities. We really felt like providing that for our community, school and also the county," Lyons said.

MPS plans to construct two playgrounds and two pavilions as part of a five year 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant from the U.S. Department of Education, which was originally awarded in August 2012.

The planned pavilions will be equipped with electrical outlets to allow for the use of mobile science labs.

The grant is designed to enhance and extend educational opportunities during after school hours through partnerships with communities.

According to MPS Middle School Principal Monte Womack, the park will have public restrooms complete with running water and electricity that will double as safe rooms during a tornado or other emergencies.

"It will be a place, that if you are out here in a emergency situation, you can go to that restroom facility and it will serve as a safe room," Womack said.

Womack explained the choice behind the park's name.

"We are going to dedicate this park to the students, to the patriots of the Morris community to stay fit; to stay healthy; to promoting wellness for future generations," Womack said. "In Isaiah 40:31 says, in so much as this is Eagle Park, 'Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength and they will soar like eagles…' "

The estimated completion date is set for the end of summer 2015.

Ceremony held for new dialysis center



MNN/Darren DeLaune
Muscogee (Creek) Nation officials held a ceremony Sept. 3 for the new dialysis center located in the Koweta Indian Health Facility in Coweta, Okla.

Center hopes to alleviate travel time for treatment

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

COWETA, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health held a ribbon-cutting event at the Koweta Indian Health Facility Sept. 3, to celebrate the opening of a new dialysis center.

"We can now take care of the patient and truly provide comprehensive care for our End Stage Renal Disease patients," MCNDH Chief Operating Officer Rhonda Beaver said.

The dialysis center will serve as a micro-clinic for treatment. The center will have three chairs that will operate for four hours a day, three days a week. Each station will have its own water filtration system.

One of the driving factors for building the center was the distance ESRD patients had to drive for dialysis. Before, patients had to be sent to a specialist for treatment.

"Patients, when they are on dialysis and have to travel some distance to see the specialist, are already exhausted and tired from that trip," Beaver said. "This will help alleviate that problem because they will not have to travel as far."

MCN partnered with Sanderling Healthcare in Nashville, Tenn., for help with the new center.

"The benefit that the patients will have is everything will be here for them. Their treatment and their doctor will be here; all in the same place," Dr. Jerry Tannenbaum with Sanderling said.

According to MCN Principal Chief George Tiger, the center is part of a larger plan to improve health for Muscogee (Creek) citizens.

"Myself and my administration knows health is and will always be a priority," Tiger said. "It is amazing that we put together this plan and we are making this plan work to our advantage."

MCNDH hopes to have a mobile dialysis center in the future.

"That is in the plans to have a mobile unit for our dialysis patients," Secretary of Health Lt. Cmdr. Seneca Smith said. "It shows we are progressing for our Nation and our citizens."

The dialysis center will be located in the southeast corner of the facility and will start out by seeing nine patients. As it moves forward, MCNDH aims to see more patients and be open six days a week.

According to Beaver, the center hopes to start seeing patients by Oct. 1.

Ribbon-cutting held for Checotah walking trail



MNN/Darren DeLaune
City of Checotah residents along with Checotah Chamber of Commerce and Muscogee (Creek) Nation officials gathered Sept. 4 at the Checotah Sports Complex in Checotah, Okla., for a ribbon-cutting ceremony to mark the reopening of the city's newly paved walking trail.

Project aims to promote healthy living

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

CHECOTAH, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) Nation and Checotah Chamber of Commerce officials along with employees from the City of Checotah held a ribbon-cutting ceremony Sept. 4 for the opening of a new walking trail at the Checotah Sports Complex in Checotah.

The walking trail is a one-mile track.

Local Muscogee (Creek) citizens helped win a trail for the residents of Checotah through their involvement in the MCN Diabetes Prevention Walking Program.

"One of the purposes of the walking program is to help people become and stay active, " Diabetes Prevention Exercise Program Manager Kimberlee Little said. "We have this trail here in Checotah now because they worked hard and won the walking program. This is their reward. Now they can continue staying active and inspire others to join them."

Little believes that this trail is a way to help prevent diabetes by encouraging citizens to walk and maintain a healthy lifestyle.

"This benefits everyone here in Checotah and the surrounding areas," Little said.

Checotah Mayor Marvin Nichols expressed his gratitude toward MCN for funding the project.

"It is a great moment for all of us here in Checotah and to be able to have the Creek Nation help us with this trail," Nichols said. "The people that live in Checotah really appreciate what Creek Nation has done here."

According to Nichols, the trail already saw frequent use before the project.

"The people here love this trail," Nichols said. "They were walking in the dirt and mud."

Nichols said that before the trail, people commonly used the ball fields if they were not in use by players and neighborhood streets but traffic was an issue.

"With this trail, they can walk here any time that they want to," Nichols said.

MCN Principal Chief George Tiger was pleased with the turnout for the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

"This is showing how the Muscogee (Creek) Nation is progressing day-by-day and doing what we can to help prevent diabetes," Tiger said. "…We are going to do what it takes to help improve the health of our citizens."

MCN coordinates Intertribal Pow Wow

Public Relations covers event costs through sponsorship

Sterling Cosper/*MNN Editor*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Public Relations is coordinating the Tulsa State Fair Intertribal Pow Wow Sept. 27 from 1-10 p.m. at the Tulsa Fairgrounds central park lawn.

"We are going to provide a glimpse of Native America to the general public and we have incorporated an intertribal type of traditional dancing in the powwows but we've also incorporated a Muscogee aspect," MCN PR Director Edwin Marshall said.

The event will feature a traditional Muscogee (Creek) stompdance starting at 5 p.m. hosted by Duck Creek Ceremonial Ground.

Also, several Muscogee (Creek) dignitaries and citizens will take part in the overall event including: Miss MCN Brittany Hill, Jr. Miss MCN River Watson, Miss Indian Oklahoma Jordan Harmon and the MCN Color Guard.

"We want to feature as many of our tribal people as possible but it is still going to be an intertribal production," Marshall said.

Other cultural styles on display will include: fancy, gourd, shield, straight, northern traditional and hoop dancing.

"We also have a category of intertribal powwow dancing for seniors called the 'golden age' category for 50 and over," Marshall said. "We have a special category for men and woman and we also have a category for kids under seven called 'tiny tots' and that's always a great feature."

The event staff will further educate attendees by giving cultural sensitivity and awareness presentations.

"For example, there will probably be a discussion about the sanctity of the war bonnet," Marshall said. "Just different things to inform the public about Native America and their impact right here in our community."

Marshall coordinated several area sponsors to fund the powwow.

"I was able to get enough sponsorship to raise enough money to pay all the expenses...," he said.

PR attempted to host the event last year.

"Our tent vendor did not show up like he was supposed to so we had to cancel because we had rain that morning," Marshall said. "This year, we got an earlier start on it and found a reliable source for a tent, which was sponsored by Red Stone Construction."

Other event sponsors include: Manhattan Construction, Beard TDIndustries, Faith Technologies, Spirit Electric and Tulsa RV Ranch.

For more information call Marshall at: 918-732-7617.

Veterans of valor: Riley Roman Bruner

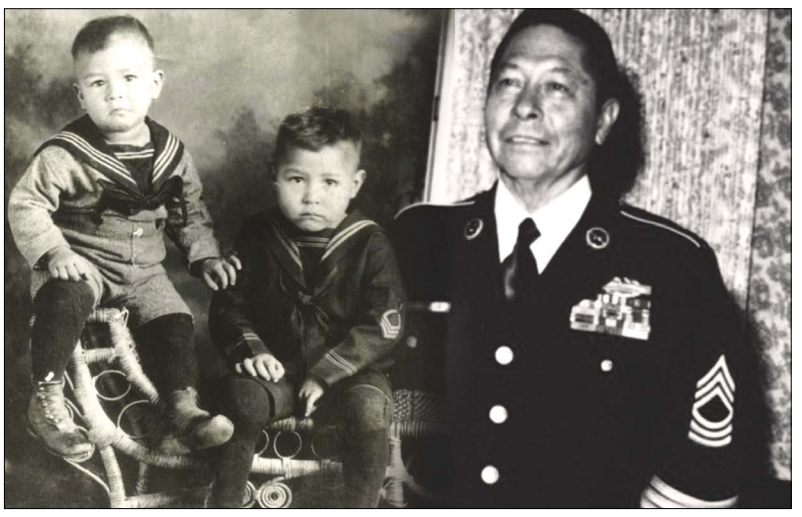


Photo Submission ***Concept:*** **MNN**/Amanda Rutland

The late and decorated Muscogee (Creek) veteran Riley Bruner served in World War II, Korea and Vietnam.

Muscogee (Creek) citizen fights in three wars

Amanda Rutland/*Media Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A boy from rural Hughes County became sculpted into a man who was decorated for his acts of service in three major conflicts.

This man's leadership helped his fellow soldiers escape massacre during the Korean War and his commitment to the service of his country led him to re-enlist in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War at the age of 49.

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Riley Bruner was born Jan. 15, 1921 to Roman and Blanche Bruner. His military career started during World War II when he enlisted in Oklahoma City.

Bruner was with the 2nd Infantry Division. According to Muscogee (Creek) Nation Veterans Affairs Service Office Director Ken Davis, the 2nd Infantry Division is also known as the Indian Head Division because their crest contains the profile view of a Native American in a headdress.

"What is interesting about Muscogees, is they will go into the combat arms," Davis said.



IHD was under the command of Gen. George Patton. They participated in several campaigns during WWII including Normandy and Central Europe.

They fought during D-Day and the Battle of the Bulge. IHD marched across Germany and helped liberate prisoners of the Nazi concentration camps.

Bruner was awarded a Combat Infantryman Badge and a Purple Heart for his service and the Silver Star and Bronze Star for heroism.

Following WWII, Korea was left segregated into the communist North Korea and non-communist South Korea. The U.S. pulled the remaining troops in 1949. On July 25, 1950, North Korea launched a full-scale attack on the south.

At that time, Bruner was stationed with the 29th Regimental Combat Team in Okinawa, Japan. They were the troops closest to Korea and set sail to provide support for the South.

"They fought and landed in July of 1950 and held the Pusan Perimeter," Davis said.

The Pusan Perimeter was on the southwest corner of the peninsula.

According to an 'Orange County Register' article, the 29th RCT suffered extreme casualties three days after they landed in Korea. RCT lost 633 soldiers from two battalions.

In that article, 29th RCT soldier Jesus Rodriguez spoke about the experience.

"We were still trying to get squared away," Rodriguez said. "And we got baptized into battle."

Bruner's battalion encountered NK forces at the village of Anui. RCT was severely under equipped and only a hand full of soldiers escaped with their lives. Bruner, now a sergeant, led three soldiers in the escape.

A little less than one month later, he was captured and held as a prisoner-of-war.

"Sometime in August of 1950, he became a POW," Davis said.

Bruner was not released until the end of the war.

In 1962, Bruner retired from the Army as a master sergeant.

Davis explained the rank system.

"Enlisted ranks go from E1, private, to E9, sergeant major. So, he was an E8," Davis said.

Seven years later, Bruner reenlisted in Vietnam with the 23rd Infantry Division, also called the Americal Division. He fought near the Laos border.

The 23rd was one of the last battalions to leave Vietnam. There, he earned a second Purple Heart and a second star on CIB, meaning it was his third CIB.

"They looked at him and said, 'This guy is a twice combat veteran, definite survivor, great leadership skills.' The kind of person they needed over there during the draw down in Vietnam," Davis said.

Even after retiring from the Army a second time, Bruner worked at General Dynamics, a defense equipment contractor for the military.

Bruner passed away August 1984.

"He is one of our veterans I would have loved to have met and talked with for hours and hours," Davis said.

In 2011, Davis and VASO Executive Officer Shawn Taryole visited Bruner's widow, Josefa Bruner, who was living in Texas.

Davis recalled that her home was very much a military home in that it had very little clutter.

"It was a nice home in a suburban neighborhood, in Arlington," Taryole said. "The nice thing about it was when she pulled out all of his documents. She kept everything."

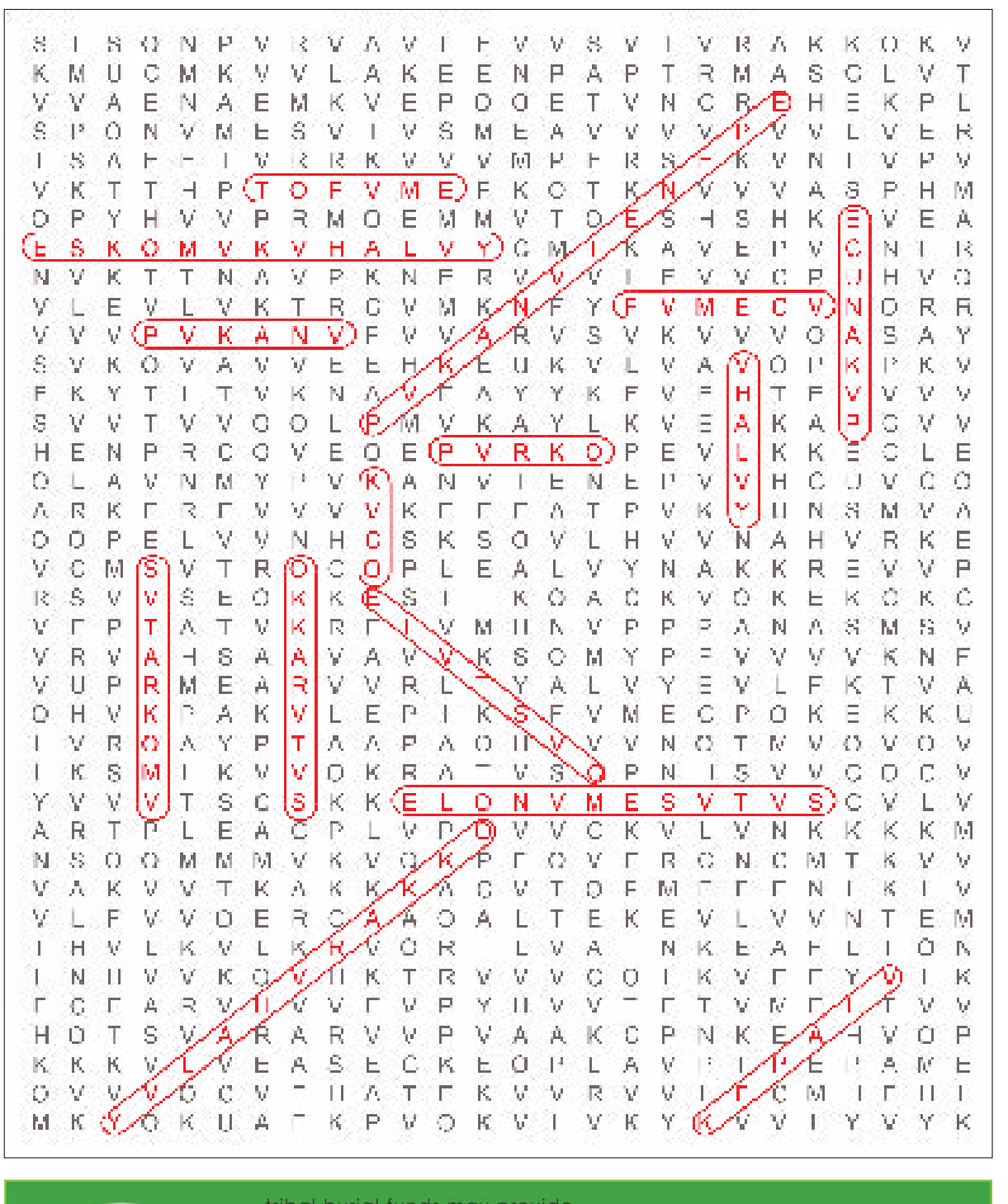
As they were leaving, she gave them his CIB for MCN to keep and display.

"He is the only soldier in our tribe to have been awarded three CIBs, Combat Infantryman Badge from the U.S. Army; signifying his role as a combat infantryman in World War II, Korea and Vietnam," Davis said.

Bruner is buried at Carson Cemetery in Hannah, Okla.



Key to the Mvskoke language puzzle from Sept. 1







MNN/Sterling Cosper
A regular session of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council was held Aug. 23 at the MCN Mound Building in Okmulgee.

COUNCIL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Health. Jennings sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

• TR 14-125 Authorizing the principal chief to execute an affiliation agreement between the MCN and Graceland University for placement of nursing students at the Koweta clinic. Tiger sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

• TR 14-126 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a child development services agreement between the MCN and Tulsa Public Schools. Tiger sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

• TR 14-127 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement with Kepro Quality Improvement Organization on behalf of the MCNDH. Tiger sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

• TR 14-128 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a transfer agreement between the MCN, the U.S. acting through Indian Health Service and the Okmulgee County Rural Water District #6. Rep. Darrell Proctor sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

• TR 14-129 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a transfer agreement between the MCN and IHS for satisfactory domestic water supply, adequate sewage disposal and plumbing facilities for Indian homes within the MCN. Proctor sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

• TR 14-130 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement between the MCN and IHS for satisfactory domestic water supply and adequate sewage disposal facilities for 24 new or like-new Indian homes within the MCN. Proctor sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

• TR 14-131 Providing support for the declaration of Santo Domingo Tomaltepec, adopted Sept. 30, 2012 by Indigenous Corn Peoples and titled 'The Struggle Continues, The Corn Lives.' Jack and Randolph sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

• TR 14-132 Authorizing the principal chief to execute memorandums of agreement between the Nation and McIntosh County for improvements to the Little Coweta Phase 1 Road Project and the Old U.S. Highway 69 Project located in McIntosh County. Rep. Joyce Deere sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

• TR 14-133 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement between the Nation and Hughes County for improvements to the Alabama Stompgrounds Road Project in Hughes County. Deere and Yahola sponsored the resolution, which was postponed 30 days.

• TR 14-134 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a United of Omaha Life Insurance company group insurance application, limited waiver of sovereign immunity and acceptance of terms and conditions for basic life insurance and supplemental life insurance for tribal employees. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

• TR 14-136 Authorizing the principal chief to execute and contract for the purchase of property located in Okmulgee County. Jennings sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

• TR 14-138 Authorizing the principal chief to execute an amendment to an agreement for renovations at River Spirit Casino. Rep. Robert Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

• TR 14-139 Authorizing GOAB to execute an agreement for renovations at the Muskogee casino. Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

• NCA 14-110 Amending MCN Code Annotated Title 11, Section 4-301 entitled, 'Minimum and Conditions,' repealing certain laws regarding communities and profit sharing of gaming revenue. Rep. David Nichols sponsored the amendment, which passed 9-6 with Reps. Adam Jones, Shirlene Ade, Hill, Hufft, Jack and Proctor voting against it.

• NCA 14-111 Amending MCNCA Title 21, entitled 'Gaming.' Nichols sponsored the amendment, which passed 9-6 with Hill, Hufft, Jack, Jones, Proctor and Ade voting against it.

• NCA 14-115 Authorizing a special appropriation of $500 to a Muscogee (Creek) citizen. Tiger sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-1-0 with Jones abstaining.

• NCA 14-117 Authorizing a special appropriation of $4,072.60 to financially assist with expenses involved in 'The Ride Home 2014,' a tribute to Phillip Coon. Coachman and Ade sponsored the amendment, which failed 5-10 with Reps. Pete Beaver, Hill, Hufft, Jack, Jennings, Jones, Nichols, Proctor, Tiger and Barnett voting against it.

• NCA 14-119 Authorizing a special appropriation of $250 to a Muscogee (Creek) youth. Tiger and Jones sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

• NCA 14-120 Authorizing a donation of $1,500 for the third annual Okmulgee County Community Baby Shower. Tiger sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

• NCA 14-121 Amending MCNCA Title 19, Section 5-108, entitled, 'Petitions and Filing Fees.' Tiger and Jones sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

• NCA 14-122 Authorizing the expenditure of $49,995 awarded from the Institute of Museum and Library Services Native American/Native Hawaiian Museum Services Program to the MCN Cultural Center and Archives Department. Randolph and Jack sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

• NCA 14-123 Authorizing a special appropriation of $500 to Crosstown Outreach Church. Coachman and Jack sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

• NCA 14-125 Amending MCNCA Title 37, Chapter 4, entitled, 'Conflict of Interest.' Coachman sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

• NCA 14-126 Authorizing a $3,000 donation to a political candidate. Deere sponsored the amendment, which failed to reach a required two-thirds majority to pass 9-6 with Beaver, Hill, Jack, Jennings, Nichols and Tiger voting against it.

• NCA 14-128 Authorizing a budget modification in excess of 20 percent for MCN CCA. Proctor sponsored the amendment, which failed 1-14 with Reps. Johnnie Greene, Randolph, Tiger, Ade, Barnett, Beaver, Coachman, Deere, Hill, Hufft, Jack, Jennings, Jones and Nichols voting against it.

• NCA 14-131 Appropriating $227,500 to be used for retaining Watts Partners for Consulting and Advisory Services on behalf of the MCN for one year. Jones sponsored the amendment, which was postponed for one month.

• NCA 14-132 Amending NCA 13-292 (Appropriating funds to OneFire Holding Company LLC). Jones sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

• NCA 14-133 Amending MCNCA Title 17, Section 6-107, entitled, 'Board of Directors and Officers.' Nichols sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

MCN Planning Department to create comprehensive strategy



Courtesy MCN Geospatial
The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Planning Department was re-established by the 2014-2015 Strategic Plan to help formulate a unified comprehensive strategy for MCN departments and programs. Pictured is an aerial view of the MCN Tribal Complex in 2013.

Department to assist with economic development, community planning

Jessica McBride/*Editorial Assistant*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — As part of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation 2014-2015 Strategic Plan, MCN created a strategy to develop a comprehensive plan for the Nation, which would analyze data in order to adopt policy decisions for land use, transportation, utilities, recreation, housing and other basic government functions.

A comprehensive plan is a baseline strategy that sets the framework for future endeavors.

"By establishing those conditions, you can therefore make planning more efficient," MCN Planning Department Director Cody Jennings said.

Jennings has experience in federal, city and tribal planning, but said that planning for a nation is different than planning for a city or community.

"City planning doesn't work for a nation per se. The ideas and the concepts will work but we're dealing with a different government structure, different departments," Jennings said.

According to the 2014-2015 Supplement to the Strategic Plan Strategic Initiatives published by MCN, the Nation has not operated a formalized planning department since the early 1990s.

The MCN Planning Department was started in February.

"We're taking that model and we're adapting it to fit tribal nation planning. And I have to say, that's a pretty progressive movement to do so," Jennings said. "The vision behind that from the administration is progressive in that a lot of tribes do not plan in a conventional way."

The department works closely with other MCN Interior Affairs departments including: Geospatial, Construction and Housing.

The department is currently assisting the MCN Reintegration Program in planning for the program's new transitional facility.

Jennings said that the department assists with two primary areas; long range planning, which includes community and comprehensive planning, as well as development services that involve the day-to-day operations.

On a broad level, the Planning Department will help MCN establish where the Nation is and where MCN would like to be many years down the road.

"I think one of the simplest forms of reason for community and regional planning or nation planning is that it establishes where we are now and what we need to do now and in the future to achieve the goals," Jennings said.

Planning will include economic development and chartered community planning.

Jennings elaborated on the damaging business metaphor of the silo effect. In the concept, departments create their own plans and stand alone instead of communicating and supporting each other.

Jennings plans to combat the silo effect and help MCN departments work together for a common purpose.

"However, bringing that all together can provide movement for achieving future goals," Jennings said. "Without planning for future generations, we'll get there; but what's it going to look like? We have the opportunity to define how we want that to look now."

COMPACT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

when it came to dealing with tribal governments from a state perspective but now there's a lot of working together, partnerships," said Tiger. "It's not only with the state but it's also with the communities that we share throughout our jurisdictional areas."

From July 1, 2014-Dec. 31, 2016, the state will receive 30 percent and the tribe will receive 70 percent of all compact taxes collected on cigarettes and all other tobacco products that are subject to the compact.

"We have the lowest or equal the lowest percentage at every timespan," MCN Tax Commissioner Jerry McPeak said. "You sincerely have the best compact in Oklahoma."

From Jan. 1, 2017-April 30, 2018, the state will receive 45 percent and the tribe 55 percent.

The projected financial advantage for MCN from the start of the compact until the end of this period is $7,585,435.

From May 1, 2018 through the end of the compact, there will be an equal split between the state and the tribe.

"One thing we've been able to establish with the tribes, especially the Muscogee (Creek) tribe and Chief Tiger, is we're able to have open discussion about all kinds of issues relating to compacting about tribal relations between the State of Oklahoma and the tribe itself," Fallin said.

The compact will expire Dec. 31, 2024.

MVSKOKE HALL OF FAME

2014 INDUCTION GALA

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2014 OCTOBER 25
2:00 PM
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INDIAN *Fall Festival*

2014 NOV 1

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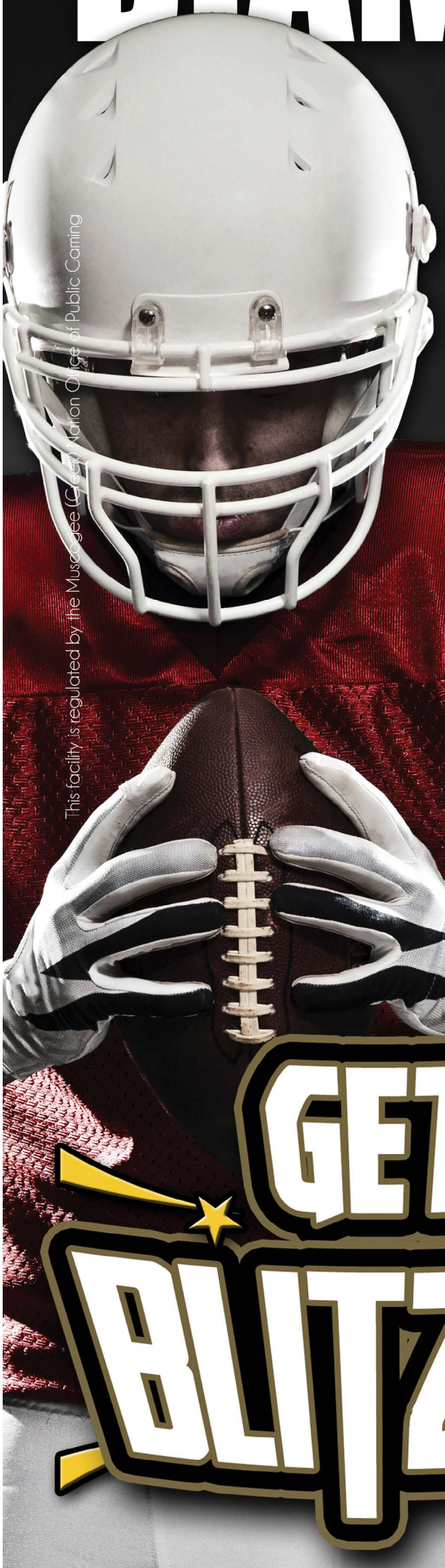
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Muscogee (Creek) Nation Community and Tribal Events

MVTO

My name is Turner Went-Worth Hunt. I am a Muscogee (Creek) citizen and a member of the Skunk Clan. I am an Iraqi Campaign veteran with the U.S. Army 82nd Airborne Division, specifically deployed as an airborne infantryman with the 2nd Battalion 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment.

I am currently a student at the University of Oklahoma where I am pursuing my bachelor's degree in anthropology and a minor in botany. I have also held the title of Mr. Indian OU for two consecutive years.

I had the recent privilege of being the American Indian Student Association Cultural Affairs Executive Board member. I was responsible for the planning and execution of many cultural activities including the AISA Centennial Powwow and the 24th Annual Spring Stompdance.

To make up for my lack of experience in certain areas, I relied heavily on my abilities to find the best people for the job. I came across an article in the April 2013 edition of the 'Muscogee Nation News' about Mr. George Coser's work at the Glenpool Creek Indian Community.

I initially sought his advice during the fall when a chance meeting occurred at the Muskogean Symposium. His advice in the fall led to me to ask him to help me with the university's annual stompdance in the spring.

Along with Mr. Coser's expertise, the participation of young members of your community was inspiring, to say the least. They were courteous and impressed not only myself but AISA's advisors, Executive Board and faculty and staff from OU.

Many people, besides me, believed the event was a huge success and most of the credit belongs to the members of GCIC.

I wanted to take time and express my gratitude to the entire GCIC for helping with the OU Stompdance. Without your help and guidance, the event would not have anything close to the success that we had.

I am impressed by what you are doing in your community and have nothing but the deepest respect for you.

Mvto!

Turner Went-Worth Hunt

Mr. Indian OU 2013-2015

MCN SRO schedule

Media Release

Sept. 16, 23, 30

Tax Commission
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
TERO
9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Sept. 17

Social Services
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Child Support Enforcement
8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Sept. 5, 8, 10, 15, 19, 22, 24, 29

Social Services
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Sept. 26

Social Services
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
WIC
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

For more information, contact the MCN SRO at: 405-452-1100.

Immersion camp held by Yuchi Language Project

Active use facilitates learning

YLP*/Media Release*

Sapulpa, Okla. – The Euchee (Yuchi) Language Project hosted its first full-day Summer Immersion Camp in June and July. The camp allowed the children who took part in the after school language program to stretch their boundaries of learning in an all-day Yuchi immersion setting for eight weeks. Importantly, the camp allowed for children to learn the language breath-to-breath from Yuchi-speaking elders, who are now in their late 80s and early 90s. This precious opportunity to learn directly from fluent elders was brought to life each day through music, prayers, crafts and games conducted solely in Yuchi. Euchee ceremonial terms were a particular focus since all of the children were also involved in the Euchee Greencorn Ceremonies held in the summer. For instance, the children learned how to build arbors in the Yuchi language. The Euchee Butterfly Farm came to do a special presentation at the Yuchi House and the children were given caterpillars to raise. Students learned how to describe the complete metamorphosis of a butterfly in the Yuchi language. Three youth interns, provided by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, assisted in the language camp; helping to mentor the children and lead them in language games and activities. By the end of the summer camp, students were able to hold short conversations with fluent elders in the Yuchi language. The elders were very impressed and encouraged by what the students learned because they have not heard children speaking the Yuchi language since they were children. The successful summer camp has spurred growing support for the language revitalization efforts being conducted by the Euchee (Yuchi) Language Project. Now that the public schools are back in session, the program is continuing to teach 35 children through a daily afterschool immersion program held at the Yuchi House. The program is only made possible through funding provided by MCN. With only four first-language speakers living today, the Yuchi language must be taught to the youngest generation to keep it alive. Committed elders and staff at the Euchee (Yuchi) Language Project are working fervently to ensure the future vitality of the Yuchi language through daily classes. For more information about the program and class offerings visit: www.yuchilanguage.org.

Editor

TCIC Elections set for Sept. 18

TULSA, Okla. — The Tulsa Creek Indian Community has set an election for the chairperson, secretary, treasurer and sergeant-at-arms board positions for Sept. 18 from 6-8 p.m.

For more information contact Roman Powell at: 918-695-2781.

Benefit tournament set for Sept. 19

CHECOTAH, Okla. — The first annual Swing for Education Benefit Golf Tournament hosted by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Scholarship Foundation is set for Sept. 19 at Fountainhead Golf Course near Checotah.

For more information call: 918-732-7754.

New MCN IDs to be issued at OCMA Sept. 23

OKLAHOMA CITY — OKLAHOMA CITY – The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Citizenship Office will be at the Oklahoma City Muscogee (Creek) Association office Sept. 23 from 1:30-6:30 p.m. to issue the new MCN citizenship cards. The OCMA office is located at 4111 N. Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City, OK.

Please bring any supporting documents for name changes, new enrollment, etc.

For more information contact the OCMA office open Tuesdays-Thursdays from 8 a.m. - 5p.m. at: 405-605-2621.

DCIC Elections set for September

BEGGS, Okla. — The Duck Creek Indian Community elections are scheduled for the September community meeting.

The following offices are open: chairman, vice-chair, secretary and treasurer.

Fall Festival set for Sept. 27

CHECOTAH, Okla. — The Heartland Heritage Center has scheduled the second annual Fall Festival Art Show and Sale for Sept. 27 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

For more information including booth spaces contact Frankie Blagg at: 918-916-9015 or Iris Park at: 405-570-3569.

Gospel singing set for Sept. 27

OKEMAH, Okla. — Greenleaf Baptist Church has set a gospel singing event for Sept. 27 at 7 p.m.

Springtown UMC revival set for Oct. 5-7

COWETA, Okla. — Springtown United Methodist Church has set a revival for Oct. 5-7, with dinner at 5:30 p.m. and the revival starting at 7 p.m.

Paul Tecumseh invites all to come and join.

Dwight Mission Alumni Reunion set for Oct. 4

MARBLE CITY, Okla. — A reunion for the alumni of Dwight Mission is set for Oct. 4 at the mission dining room.

Registration will be from 8:30 - 10 a.m. and the program will begin at 10 a.m. Lunch is scheduled for 12 p.m. and please RSVP by Sept. 29.

Bring your family, school picture and friends.

For more information, contact Levada Smith-Wildcat at: 918-773-3096.

Indian taco sale set for Oct. 4

TULSA, Okla. — Haikey Chapel has set an Indian taco sale for Oct. 4 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at 8515 E. 101 St, Tulsa, OK.

Meals are $7 and include a drink.

List of upcoming MNN deadlines

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The following is a list of upcoming deadlines to submit content for the 'Muscogee Nation News.'

Oct. 1 — Sept. 23

Oct. 15 — Oct. 7

Nov. 1 — Oct. 24

Nov. 15 — Nov. 6

Dec. 1 — Nov. 21

Dec. 15 — Dec. 5

Jan. 1, 2015 — Dec. 19

Language instruction Training set for Oct. 22 or 23

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) Nation Language Preservation Program has set a Train the Trainer event for Oct. 22 or 23 from 9 a.m.- 3 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Express, 2780 N. Wood Dr., Okmulgee, OK.

Lunch will be provided and the registration deadline is Oct. 3 at 5 p.m. To RVSP call Judy Montiel at: 918-732-7724 or Minnie Proctor at: 918-732-7725.

Beauty pageant set for Jan. 17, 2015

GLENPOOL, Okla. — A Native beauty pageant is set for Jan. 17, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. during the Elite Home, Health, Fashion Expo, located at the Glenpool Conference Venue.

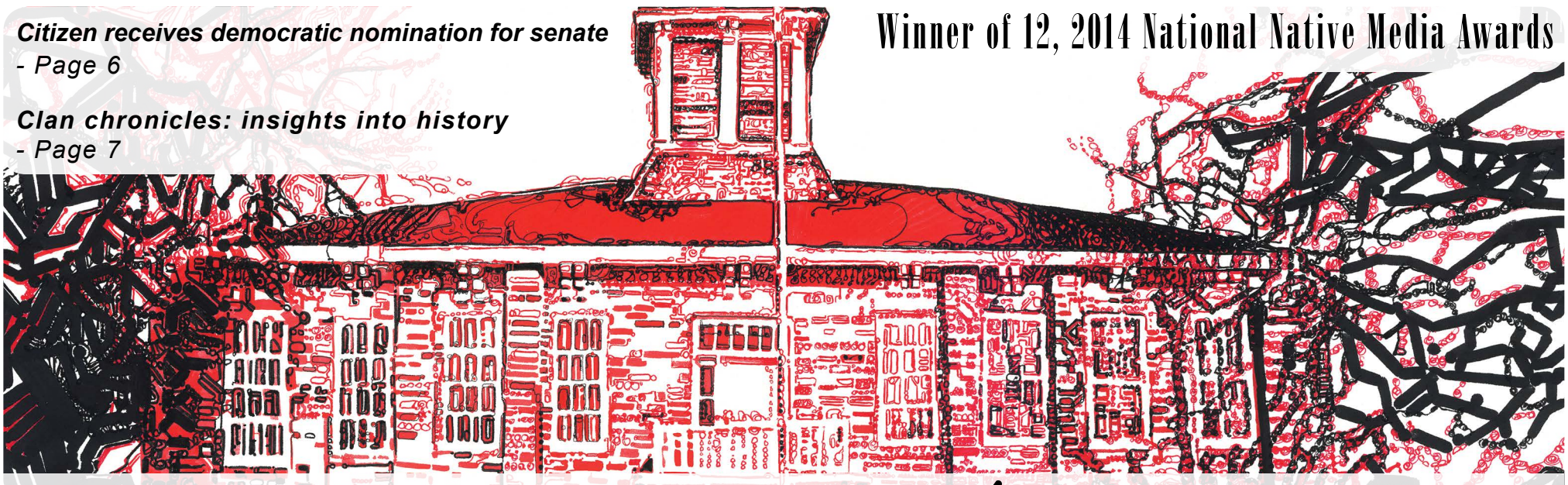
The expo will run Jan. 17-18, 2015. To register as a contestant, vendor or sponsor contact Rosie at: rosieseliteexpos@gmail.com.



Citizen receives democratic nomination for senate
- Page 6

Clan chronicles: insights into history
- Page 7

Winner of 12, 2014 National Native Media Awards



Muscogee Nation News

Mvskoke Media production — The official tribal newspaper of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation

Oct. 1, 2014

Vol. 44, Issue 19
"Otowoskvrakko"
Big Chestnut Month

40th IITC held on Phillip Deere family allotment

Treaty conference comes full circle at roundhouse

Amanda Rutland/*Media Specialist*



MNN/Amanda Rutland
Attendees gathered inside of the Phillip Deere Roundhouse Sept. 10 for the 40th Anniversary International Indian Treaty Conference held at the Deere family allotment near Okemah, Okla.

OKEMAH, Okla. — The sun shined through the tall blackjack trees that peppered the land as the morning breeze swept away sounds of quiet conversation as smoothly as water gliding down stream.

Indigenous leaders from around the world gathered Sept. 10-12 for the 40th Anniversary International Indian Treaty Conference held on the family allotment of Muscogee (Creek) citizen Phillip Deere located near Okemah.

A newly constructed roundhouse was recently built on the allotment and was used to host topic discussions between dignitaries. Roundhouses were used for discourse on important issues in traditional Mvskoke culture.

IITC Executive Director Andrea Carmen said the conference was founded because the needs of Indian Country were not being met.

"It was founded because indigenous peoples came together in a time of a lot of turmoil demanding rights," Carmen said. "Walks across the country, occupations, court cases; none of them seemed to work. In fact, more repression came down."

The first IITC was held June 1974, at the Standing Rock Reservation in South Dakota, with an estimated 5,000 people in attendance from countries as far as Canada and South America.

The consensus of the first IITC was to seek a seat at the United Nations. Carmen said IITC is considered international because it represents many sovereign

IITC - 2

MCN hosts International Indigenous Peoples Corn Conference

Event explores cultural importance of corn, other foods

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*



MNN/Darren DeLaune
Representatives from the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and other tribes participated in a roundtable discussion Sept. 8 over the spiritual, cultural and nutritional meaning of corn for indigenous tribes and people during the 2nd annual International Indigenous Peoples Corn Conference.

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The 2nd annual International Indigenous Peoples Corn Conference was held Sept. 8-9 at the Mvskoke Dome building on the Claude A. Cox Omniplex in Okmulgee.

This year's conference was hosted by the International Indian Treaty Council and the Mvskoke Food Sovereignty Initiative.

The conference addressed the importance and cultural, tribal significance of corn.

"This conference is good for our tribes and other tribes around here to discuss the usefulness that corn has in our culture and way of life," MFSI Youth Coordinator of Stephanie Berryhill said.

The first conference in 2012 was held in Oaxaca, Mexico. Berryhill considered it an honor for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation to host the second conference.

Tribes were represented from across the United States and around the world, including Mexico and New Zealand.

"It is an honor to have all these people from other tribes here in the U.S. and from other countries," Berryhill said. "It is great to share advice on agriculture and how our cultures are different and in some cases, similar."

IITC Executive Director Andrea Carmen, who is a citizen of the Yaqui tribe, enjoyed participating and being among Muscogee (Creek) citi-

Corn - 7

MCN hosts third annual Hope Walk

Events held to facilitate suicide prevention

Chelsie Rich/*Project Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) Nation Behavioral Health Services held the third annual Hope Walk Sept. 10 at the MCN Mound Building in Okmulgee, along with other events throughout the week in recognition of National Suicide Prevention Week.

According to the American Association of Suicidology and Center for Disease Control, homicide is the 16th leading cause of deaths in the U.S., while suicide is the 10th.

AAS and CDC also reports that suicide is the eighth leading of cause of death among Native Americans of all ages, fifth for Native Americans males and second for Native Americans ages 10-24.

"It's really important because we need to talk about it. There's a stigma associated with mental illness and suicide," said MCN Meth and Suicide Prevention Initiative Program Coordinator Leslie Crow.

The awareness week events consisted of: a suicide awareness display contest where the MCN department created a presentation board, chalk messages on the sidewalks at the College of the Muscogee Nation, the Hope Walk, mental health screenings and suicide prevention training.

Suicide survivors shared stories of how suicide has affected their life. A survivor is someone who has lost someone to suicide.

One was a mother whose daughter attempted suicide

Hope - 3

MvskokeMedia

MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

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Ceremony held for new recreational center in Wilson



MNN/Darren DeLaune
Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger and Wilson Creek Indian Community Chairperson Rita Williams unveil a sign Sept. 15 depicting the new WCIC recreation and fitness center at the project introduction ceremony.

Facility to feature workout equipment, activities for citizens

Darren DeLaune*/MNN Reporter*

HENRYETTA, Okla. – The Muscogee (Creek) Nation held a project introduction ceremony Sept. 15 for the new recreation and fitness center that will be located at the Wilson Indian Community.

MCN Principal Chief George Tiger, MCN National Council representatives and WCIC members were involved in the dedication for the new facility.

"I am very excited for the new center that will be here," WCIC Chairperson Rita Williams said. "We are very happy that this will be built and in operation soon."

Williams said that this community, although small, has always stuck together with their views and what they want to accomplish. She feels that the center will be one of the rewards for this.

"There has always been talk from the community members in the past and up until now," Williams said. "From all the talks, this is what is going to happen. This has been a dream from those that came before us and even though they can't see it; their dream is becoming a reality."

OneArchitecture Project Architect Kevin Hale spoke about the community's involvement in planning for the new building.

"The process has gone a little bit different, but interesting nonetheless," Hale said. "The community had a big involvement in the making of the floor plans and how they wanted it built."

He elaborated on what aspects of the design WCIC was involved in.

"They gave tribal construction, whom made the drawings and we at OneArchitecture issued the drawings," Hale said. "So it is very interesting to see that process happening where the community is coming around and putting a lot of effort and what they want for the facility."

The center will have a half-basketball court, teaching area for cultural and educational activities and host multi-purpose sports activities.

Tiger spoke at the introduction ceremony about what the facility means to the Nation and how it is going to help out.

"We forget about that 'at age' group. That is the age where they can be led towards drugs and alcohol and doing the wrong things," Tiger said. "We can applaud the efforts of what this community is doing and how they are going to help the 'at age' group and point them towards the right ways and doing the right things."

A completion date has not been determined for the center.

MCN supports nationally acclaimed math and science curriculum



MNN/Gary Fife
2014 Miss Muscogee (Creek) Nation Brittany Hill (left) and Junior Miss MCN River Watson (right) take in the displays of aircraft exhibited and flown Sept. 18 during the Flight Night event at the R.L. Jones Airport in Jenks, Okla.

Donation promotes technological industry education

Gary Fife*/Radio Specialist*

JENKS, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation is playing a part in raising educational aspirations to the sky. MCN was one of the donors and supporters of the Science Technology Engineering and Math curriculum, recognized during the Flight Night event Sept. 18 at the RL Jones Airport in Jenks.

STEM is a partnership of national agencies working to increase the number of American students pursuing a technological career and the event was held to recognize program contributors.

According to MCN Principal Chief George Tiger, the MCN National Council and Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise authorized a $50,000 contribution.

"We were approached by the Siegfried family (the event's founders) about this opportunity, in particular, promoting STEM," Tiger said. "That's probably the way of the future for a lot of our kids. So we wanted to be a part of it."

Tiger pointed to the importance of the aviation industry to Oklahoma's economy as a reason for the Nation's involvement.

"Aviation is something that we're finding out that some of our people are wanting to get involved in, so it's a natural for us to kind of mesh with this whole thing with the people from NORDAM," Tiger said.

NORDAM is one of the state's leaders in aircraft component manufacturing and repair.

Flight Night presented numerous aerial demonstrations of full-size jet and vintage aircraft and scaled-down radio controlled aircraft, followed by a dinner in a hangar at the R.L. Jones Airport.

Xan Black, Program Director for the Tulsa Regional STEM Alliance said these educational fields serve as the basis for accomplishments such as becoming a pilot.

"When you look up at those planes you're still in awe," Black said. "The reason they can be in the air is because of STEM. It's all science, technology, engineering and math. It's the only reason we're able to do things like fly airplanes."

As for the MCN donation, Black called it an important collaboration.

"With Creek Nation coming on board with the other philanthropists and organizations, we're going to be able to support 100,000 hours of STEM education for students for next year that we couldn't do this year," Black said.

Part of the Tulsa group's plan will be to create a mobile lab that will travel to rural schools and areas to promote STEM's educational agenda. When completed, Black predicted that the mobile unit will visit the Okmulgee area at some point.

IITC

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

nations.

"We are nations and our relations with each other, whether we are talking about the relations between the Poncas and the Seminoles and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, are international relations to begin with," Carmen said.

Deere's land was chosen as the meeting location because he was an IITC founder and part of the first indigenous delegation at the U.N. Conference.

Attendees of this year's conference were invited to camp on-site for the duration of the event.

MCN Principal Chief George Tiger commented on Deere's impact.

"Phillip certainly always contributed to being part of a group that brought attention to issues and concerns of the Indian people across the country," Tiger said. "I am honored and humbled to serve in the position I serve in because of people like Phillip Deere."

Day one began with the lighting of the Sacred Fire that would burn for the remainder of the conference. Muscogee (Creek) poet Joy Harjo delivered opening words and recited her piece entitled, 'Eagle Poem.'

Some of the topics addressed during the conference included: human rights, food sovereignty, environmental health, decolonization and restoration. IITC also featured panels on the United Nations High-Level Plenary Meeting and the Emerging World Conference of Indigenous Peoples.

One aspect of environmental health that was discussed dealt with the effect of man-made pollutants such as pesticides and chemical run-off on reproductive well-being.

The IITC Board Vice President and Chiefess of the Maori Nation Hinewirangi Kohu said she works with women, specifically those who birth babies, that suffer deformities and abnormalities because of these chemicals.

"You destroy the womb; you destroy nations," Kohu said. "This is the first sacred place is the place from whence you came."

She believes that the real value of the conference is bringing people together for the creation and renewing of relationships and the sharing of culture.

Kohu said not all of the work of the IITC takes place at the U.N.

"It took us, the treaty council 14-15 years to change the word from people to peoples. I can't wait 15 years when my people are dying.

"The major, major work of the treaty council is to gather and send things, information to all those tribes that have the same kind of problems," Kohu said.

Deere's son, Sam 'Bonnie' Deere said it was his late father's wish to unite Native people around the world.

"He was a man that looked into the future," Sam 'Bonnie' Deere said.

The IITC mission statement is, 'Working for the rights and recognition of indigenous peoples.'

"We are not asking for permission. We're just doing it," Kohu said.



MNN/Chelsie Rich
Muscogee (Creek) Nation employees and citizens recognize National Suicide Prevention Week by participating Sept. 10 in the MCN Behavioral Health Services third annual Hope Walk at the MCN Mound Building in Okmulgee.

HOPE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and the other was a teacher who lost her mother to suicide while she was in college.

"Since we've been doing a lot of prevention efforts, we have had a huge increase in the number of people who have been seeking help, which is what we want to see," Crow said. "I don't think we're actually having an increase in suicidal behaviors but we're having an increase in seeking help."

BHS held a suicide prevention gatekeeper training Sept. 14 in the MCN Housing Building conference room to help attendees recognize the clues and warning signs of suicide, the steps to prevent a suicide and where they should send people for help.

The training featured the quote, "Ask a question, save a life."

The training emphasized that it is OK to question a person about suicide, persuade them to get help and refer them to the appropriate resource.

"The main thing we want to do is to encourage people to seek help or to recognize when their loved ones need help," Crow said.

The mission of BHS is to promote healthy lifestyles and provide a quality of care that enhances the lives of Native Americans and their families living in our communities.

BHS provides mental health and substance abuse services for children, adolescents, adults and elders.

Help is available at locations in Coweta, Eufaula, Okemah, Okmulgee, Sapulpa and Wetumka, Okla.

"We just want all of the citizens to know that we're here… there's help available and we want them to call us if they need anything," Crow said.

According to AAS and CDC, there are 108 lives taken each day by suicide and Oklahoma is seventh in the nation for suicides.

For more information contact MCN Behavioral Health Services at: 918-758-1910 or 1-888-756-4333.

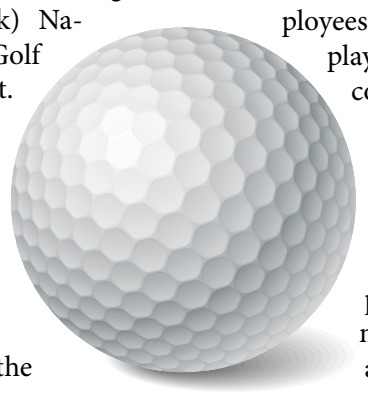
You can also contact the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at: 1-800-273-8255 or go online to: www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org.

TR hosts employee golf tournament

Fountainhead uses event to promote course

Jessica McBride/*Editorial Assistant*

CHECOTAH, Okla. — The crisp fall air and light precipitation did not stop employees from teeing off at the inaugural Muscogee (Creek) Nation Employee Golf Tournament Sept. 12 at Fountainhead Creek Golf Course in Checotah.



The MCN Tourism and Recreation Department hosted the event.

"It's an employee comradery opportunity," TR Director William Lowe said. "It's kind of a morale builder as well."

According to TR Recreation Manager Rojer Johnson, over 50 employees signed up to play in the tournament.

"We believe it targets some of our other employees that do not like to play softball or basketball," Johnson said. "We also have a lot of managers, supervisors that enjoy playing golf."

Johnson said that he also hopes the tournament will help promote the golf course.

"Within the last three years, the course has really done a 180 from its past and really has blossomed," Johnson said.

Fountainhead Creek Golf Course General Manager Mike Wood said that he hopes the tournament will raise awareness.

"I'm sure there's a lot of employees that have not played our golf course.

"Hopefully we get them to start playing and to bring other people down to play… Word of mouth is as good a promotion as you can get," Wood said.

Johnson hopes to continue to have employee golf tournaments on a semi-annual basis.

Lunch was provided and prize money was given to first, second and third places.

Fountainhead Creek Golf Course is located on lakefront property at Lake Eufaula. The course is an 18 hole, par 72 course.

For more information about Fountainhead Creek Golf Course, visit: www.fountainheadgolf.com.

Golfers 'swing' for education



MNN/Darren DeLaune
The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Higher Education Scholarship Foundation Program hosted the first annual 'Swing for Education 'Benefit Golf Tournament Sept. 19 at Fountainhead Creek Golf Course in Checotah, Okla.

Inaugural scholarship golf tournament held

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

CHECOTAH, Okla. — Over 20 teams signed up for the first annual 'Swing for Education' Benefit Golf Tournament Sept. 19 at Fountainhead Creek Golf Course in Checotah.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Higher Education Scholarship Foundation Program hosted the inaugural event.

The benefit golf tournament was held to raise money for scholarships and function as a marketing opportunity for HESFP.

"We want to get the word out there of what our program is doing and what our goals are," HESFP Director of the Dr. Pete Coser said. "Our main objective is to be able to raise funds to provide more scholarships."

A committee was established with goals and objectives for the tournament.

"This is the first time we have worked to get a golf tournament," HESFP Resource Development Specialist Kryste Benge said. "We had a great committee that worked together to get this off the ground."

MCN Principal Chief George Tiger participated with one of the teams in the tournament. He was pleased overall with the event and what it provided for the program and the tribe.

"This is a great crowd," Tiger said. "I think the response we've had is indicative of what people are seeing across Creek Nation. We are being progressive, especially in areas of education in which, as a Nation, we have always taken a lot of pride in."

Benge considers the debut of their golf tournament an overall success and is planning to host the event annually.

"This is great to see all the teams here playing today," Benge said. "I know the committee will be working hard for next year and have more goals for the program."

Fountainhead Creek Golf Course is located near Lake Eufaula. The course is an 18 hole, par 72 course.

Eighth annual Diabetes Summit held in Glenpool



MNN/Chelsie Rich
Attendees of the eight annual Diabetes Summit receive health screenings Sept. 11 at the Glenpool Conference Center in Glenpool, Okla.

Program helps prevent, manage diabetes

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

GLENPOOL, Okla. — More than 300 participants showed up for the eighth annual Muscogee (Creek) Nation Diabetes Summit, hosted by the MCN Diabetes Prevention and Management Program Sept. 11 at the Glenpool Conference Center in Glenpool.

"This summit helps us out to be able to get more awareness to our community," DPP Exercise Programs Coordinator Duane Meadows said. "This summit will help teach you the proper ways to eat and the proper ways to be physically active."

The event offered physical activities such as Zumba, chair exercises and yoga. Attendees were also able to receive information from scheduled speakers, take individual health screenings and listen to a blues band during lunchtime.

Meadows commented on how much the summit has grown.

"We started out in Okmulgee, but we had some community members talk to us about being in other areas of the Nation," Meadows said. "Each year, more support comes from our community members about the summit."

There are different types of diabetes that affect the human population, Type 1 and Type 2.

According to the Indian Health Service website, Type 2 diabetes is the most common for American Indians.

A common stigma about diabetics is that they are all overweight and not physically active.

"That is not true," MCN Paramedic Jared Williams said. "Diabetes can affect anyone. While physical activity and a better diet can help prevent diabetes, there are some instances where a family has a history of diabetes and that can be the reason why people are diagnosed with it."

While there is not a cure for diabetes, it can be treated.

"I was diagnosed in 1990," Muscogee (Creek) citizen Patsy Lewis said. "It was tough to hear that I had diabetes. After hearing that, the doctor told me what I needed to do."

Lewis elaborated on her physician's advice.

"My doctor told me to start walking so I started walking two miles a day," Lewis said. "I bought a treadmill and that is where I walk. For my eating, it seemed like I had to learn how to eat again. I had to learn what was right to eat and what was wrong."

According to Lewis, her family has a long history of diabetes.

"There were eight of us that was raised by my mother and father," Lewis said. "Out of the eight, six of us ended up being diagnosed with diabetes. My father was also a diabetic."

Several pro-athletes have been diagnosed with diabetes and still have a career in their respective sports including NFL players, Jay Cutler of the Chicago Bears and Mike Echols of the San Diego Chargers.

"We have athletes out there proving that you can have diabetes and still be able to lead a healthy life," Williams said. "They are not letting diabetes stop them."

Meadows agreed with Williams and specified how to obtain this goal.

"If you can eat healthier and get at least 30 minutes and up to an hour of physical activity, you can help treat diabetes and live a better life," Meadows said.

Lewis had advice for people who have been recently diagnosed with diabetes.

"It is not the end of the world," Lewis said. "You can have a long, great and healthy life with diabetes. You cannot let it beat you. I will be 79-years-old in November. When you exercise and eat right, you can live a long time with diabetes."

For more information contact the Diabetes Prevention Program at: 918-756-3334.

Transportation hosts open house

Ribbon-cutting ceremony held for new building

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Transportation Program held an open house Sept. 17 for the new TTP building.

TTP provides new roads and road maintenance to residents living within the 11 counties of the MCN jurisdiction.

"We are getting a lot more passengers for our trolleys and shuttle buses so we have hired more drivers and more personnel for our programs in our department," TTP Manager Charley LaSarge said. "We have outgrown that building where we are at now."

The Transportation Program offices were located within the Transit Program building on the MCN Tribal Complex. The new offices are located on the MCN Industrial Park located on Gun Club Road in northern Okmulgee west of U.S. Highway 75.

Original intentions for the new building were to have the Transit Program located in the Industrial Park. After LaSarge spoke with MCN Principal Chief George Tiger and Deputy Director of Interior Affairs Jeff Fife, all three felt it would be best to move the Transportation Program and leave the Transit Program on the Complex.

"When people are ready to leave at the end of the day, they can still go to our offices for the Transit," LaSarge said.

The trolley and charter buses will stay on the Complex.

TTP has had a contract with the KIBOIS Area Transit System (KATS) to provide public transportation within the tribal boundaries. KATS Director Charla Sloan was in attendance for the open house and was pleased with the new building and the continued partnership between the two programs.

"The Creek Nation and KATS work well together," Sloan said. "To see this new building shows the success. Whenever they prosper, we do too."

For more information about TTP call: 918-732-7908.

Last 2014 Listening Meeting held

Officials discuss department updates

Jessica McBride/*Editorial Assistant*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The final Listening Meeting for 2014 was held Sept. 6 at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Mound Building in Okmulgee.

MCN representatives were available to answer citizen questions and give updates on their respective departments and programs.

"These conferences, these Listening Meetings that we've had have been very, very fruitful," MCN Principal Chief George Tiger said.

Tiger said that citizen recommendations could be included in the 2015 strategic plan.

A live streaming video of the session was available online for citizens who were unable to attend.

MCN Secretary of Community and Human Services Cherrah Giles said that her departments were looking at expanding to include more youth services and making services available at MCN regional offices.

"It's important to be where the people are and not expect everybody to come here for centralized services," Giles said.

MCN Secretary of Health Lt. Cmdr. Seneca Smith spoke of MCN Department of Health facility expansions in Okemah, Eufaula and potentially in Sapulpa.

"Hopefully we'll be able to move forward with that joint venture and expand that facility to about a 60,000-70,000 sq. ft. facility there in Sapulpa," Smith said.

MCN Secretary of Education and Training Dr. Wayne Johnson talked about increasing support and career services within the departments.

"In the past we've always just handed our students a check and sent them off to school and say, 'good luck,'" Johnson said. "We've not necessarily provided the kinds of support services that our students need to be successful."

Secretary of the Nation Bill Fife elaborated on his duties.

"Our primary goal in our existence is to strengthen the tribal economy by bringing commerce in and outside of the Nation," Fife said.

Fife said that the Mvskoke Loan Fund has given about 12 business loans this year.

The Commerce Department has recently changed locations to the old Bureau of Indian Affairs building located between the Finance Building and the McCombs Building.

Secretary of the Interior Jeff Fife discussed program strides, and what his department is doing to educate citizens regarding the Act of Aug. 4, 1947.

"Our Realty Trust Services has began performing an outreach to all the land owners," Jeff Fife said.

The 47 Act is a federal law that affects the restricted land of the Five Civilized Tribes in regards to management and inheritance.

Representatives from the MCN Tax Commission, Lighthorse Police Department, Tribal Administrator's Office, Housing Department, Chief of Staff's Office and the Gaming Commission were also available.

Citizens asked Tiger about his personal stance on the mascot issue.

"As a former sports broadcaster, whenever I saw the team that I was covering playing someone that had a mascot of Indians or a logo of Indians, I never recognized that school's logo," Tiger said.

Tiger also responded regarding statements of the MCN owned RiverWalk business development in Jenks, Okla., being an "embarrassment."

"I think it's a positive thing," Tiger said. "Arkansas River is getting ready to explode in that area… Timing is crucial, and we believe that right now is a good time to be able to develop what we have at RiverWalk."

Tiger said that there could be a major announcement soon regarding the RiverWalk property.

Listening Meeting dates have not been set for 2015.

Tiger speaks at AICCO luncheon



MNN/Chelsie Rich

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger spoke at the American Indian Chamber of Commerce of Oklahoma-Tulsa Chapter monthly luncheon Sept. 18 at the Osage Casino in Tulsa.

AICCO, Tiger promote Native American small businesses

Chelsie Rich/*Project Specialist*

TULSA, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger spoke at the American Indian Chamber of Commerce of Oklahoma-Tulsa Chapter monthly luncheon Sept. 18 at the Osage Casino in Tulsa.

The AICCO is Oklahoma's only chamber devoted to promoting and supporting Native American businesses.

"I always admire the works of the chamber and what they do for our communities," Tiger said.

The AICCO has four chapters, a state board and a new growing business-to-business program, also known as B2B.

The B2B program promotes economic growth among members and encourages them to do business with other members.

"What we do today as Indian people in business has a tremendous impact on the state of Oklahoma," Tiger said.

The state board for AICCO volunteers their time to help give chamber members opportunities to succeed in Oklahoma.

Tracy Copeland is the vice president of the AICCO Tulsa Chapter and the AICCO State Board president-elect.

"We're here to serve small businesses and get Indian Country doing business with our own, and help to promote and educate.

"We have different speakers come in and tell us what's going on with the different tribes," Copeland said.

AICCO selected Tiger to speak on behalf of the Nation's achievements and upcoming projects.

"There's so much going on at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation… we just like to bring him in. He's a phenomenal speaker and very motivational; and he supports all small business," Copeland said. "We just wanted to hear what's going on with him and all the new projects."

Tiger spoke about the programs that MCN offers for small businesses.

"I believe in a small business. I believe a small business allows us regards of what level of government we may have the opportunity to succeed," Tiger said.

The North Central, Oklahoma City, Southwest and Tulsa AICCO chapters conduct monthly meetings that are staggered throughout the month to allow chamber members the opportunity to attend each luncheon.

Each year, AICCO hosts the largest conference for American Indian businesses to provide networking opportunities, classes and informative presentations.

For more information about AICCO meetings or how to become a member go online to: www.aiccok.org.

Brothers honor tradition through lacrosse

Thompson family visits MCN

Chelsie Rich/*Project Specialist*



MNN/Chelsie Rich

Miles Thompson speaks during the Modern Day Warriors event Sept. 5 at the Mvskoke Dome building in Okmulgee, Okla.

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Family Violence Prevention Program Warriors Honor Women group and MCN Cultural Center and Archives hosted an event entitled, 'Modern Day Warriors: Thompson Family Legacy for Indian Country' Sept. 5, at the Mvskoke Dome building in Okmulgee.

"Us collaborating together, we thought the Thompson Family was a great representation of both those missions… remaining traditional, respecting our women; respecting our culture and then of course of that it gets into the cultural exchange of us inviting a Native nation to hear their story and of course visit our own Muscogee Nation," CCA Director Justin Giles said.

The Thompson Family are Iroquois citizens from the Onondaga Reservation in New York.

The Thompson brothers: Jeremy, Jerome, Miles and Lyle compete in the sport of Lacrosse.

According to a MCN Public Relations press release, "Lacrosse is more than a sport to the Iroquois, it's the centerpiece of their centuries-old culture and a way to honor the Creator. The Thompson family embodies their lacrosse culture and focuses on traditional family values that can help prepare Native youth to remain rooted in our traditions while thriving in academics and remain drug and alcohol free."

The Thompson brothers were influenced by lacrosse at a very young age.

"Lacrosse is real important to me. It's more than just a game to me; it's a way of life." Miles said. "At birth, we're given a traditional wooden stick and when we pass away, we're buried with that stick."

The Thompson brothers started out by playing lacrosse in their backyard and they all went on to play lacrosse in college.

Jerome, also known as Haina, and Jeremy played for a junior college, and Jeremy went on to play for Syracuse University and was later drafted by Major League Lacrosse.

Miles and Lyle played for the University of Albany, where they both were later selected as the 2014 Tewaaraton Award winners.

Every year, the Tewaaraton Foundation recognizes excellence in the sport of lacrosse by honoring the most outstanding men and women's college players.

The award honors the Native American history of the sport through the award's name, and by integrating Native American traditions and culture throughout the program.

The Tewaaraton Award in lacrosse is equivalent to the Heisman Trophy in football.

"Me and my brother were honored to win that award. It's the first time that two people won that award; actually split it. Not only that, it's also the first time a Native American has ever won a Native American award," Miles said.

The Thompson Family hoped to inspire others as they told their story.

"What I want to tell the youth is, 'you know; you can learn your tradition. You can go off to school, get an education… and you can come back to your people'," Miles said.

Muscogee (Creek) citizen receives MacArthur Fellowship



MNN File Photo
Muscogee (Creek) citizen Sarah Deer is a 2014 recipient of the MacArthur Foundation fellowship.

Deer continues to raise awareness

Jessica McBride/*Editorial Assistant*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Sarah Deer was selected as a 2014 MacArthur fellow for her work as a legal scholar and advocate for policies to address domestic violence issues against Native American women.

Deer was one of 21 selected by the MacArthur Foundation to receive the grant this year.

According to Deer's biographical information on the MacArthur Foundation website, her contributions were vital to Congress passing the Tribal Law and Order Act of 2010 and the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act in 2013.

According to a MacArthur Foundation press release, "Fellows will each receive a no-strings-attached stipend of $625,000, paid out over five years. The Fellowship comes with no stipulations or reporting requirements, and allows recipients maximum freedom to follow their own creative visions."

Individuals cannot apply for the fellowship, but rather are nominated by anonymous selectors.

Once chosen, individuals are notified that they have received the fellowship.

"I was shocked and very emotional," Deer said. "And then I couldn't tell anyone, I had to keep it a secret."

Deer said that she was unable to discuss the fellowship until it was formally announced on Sept. 17.

She said her students were excited for her.

"When I walked into class the next day they were all clapping for me," Deer said.

Deer said that she is still brainstorming how she will use the funds, but she would like to continue her work in addressing violence against Native women.

"I feel a real sense of obligation to the Native women of Oklahoma because of my connections and my identity," Deer said.

Deer said her father and grandfather played a role in influencing her devotion to the cause.

"Both of those men have really impressed upon me a duty and obligation to help those that are less fortunate than me and also have really supported my passion for gendered issues, particularly issues that affect women," Deer said.

As a professor, Deer also tries to relay the passion for her work to her students.

"I think the world is a better place when people are doing the things they care deeply about… that's the lesson I try to give my students," Deer said.

Deer is thankful to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Family Violence Prevention Program.

"Thank you to the Creek Nation and especially to Shawn and the wonderful women there for believing in me and supporting me,"

Deer received a Bachelor of Arts and Juris Doctorate from the University of Kansas. Currently, she is a professor and co-director of the Indian Law Clinic at William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul, Minn.

Harjo garners another HOF honor



Submission

Oklahoma Center for Poets and Writers recognizes citizen

Gary Fife/*Radio Specialist*

TULSA, Okla. — 2012 Mvskoke Hall of Fame inductee Joy Harjo has been honored yet again, as the Oklahoma Center for Poets and Writers recently named her to the Oklahoma Writers Hall of Fame.

The organization, based at Oklahoma State University—Tulsa, made the announcement Sept. 9 calling Harjo, "one of the most powerful voices in contemporary literature."

For Harjo, recognition from her home state is fulfilling for a couple of reasons.

"When these honors come, I appreciate them but I feel like it's not just for me, but it's for where the work comes from," Harjo said. "This place has a lot to do with who I am and where I'm going."

Harjo added that being honored by fellow Oklahomans is important, as the state continues to develop relations with Native people.

"This is Indian Country. For me, it's one of the most difficult places to live because of the history here. It's not something that happened a long time ago.

"The 'settler-Native' politics are still going on. I don't want to say nothing has changed because there's always change going on, but sometimes it feels like nothing has changed," Harjo said.

This year, Harjo also received a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship and will be recognized Dec. 2 as one of YWCA's 100 Women of Moxie.

Some of her other honors and awards include the 'American Book Award,' the 'William Carlos Williams Award,' the 'American Indian Distinguished Achievement Award' and the 'New Mexico Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts.'

In addition, she has received two National Endowment for the Arts Creative Writing Fellowships in 1978 and 1992 and an honorary doctorate from Benedictine College in 1992.

In 2012, 'Muscogee Nation News' reported that Harjo has received more than 30 awards and honors for her work including the '2011 Muscogee Women's Leadership Artist of the Year Award' and in 2005, the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian named her 'Writer of the Year.'

In 1990, she won the 'American Indian Distinguished Achievement in the Arts Award.' She was recognized as one of the Outstanding Young Women in America and received the 'Lifetime Achievement Award' from the Native Writers Circle of the Americas.

Currently, Harjo said she is in the early stages of working on a new musical production, a second memoir and a new book of poetry.

Harjo gave a final word of encouragement for young Native writers and composers.

"Take time to unhook from all your devices," Harjo said. "It's all about listening. Stopping and listening and that's what writing is basically, stopping and listening."

Harjo's formal induction in the Oklahoma Writers Hall of Fame is set for Oct. 8 at the OSU-Tulsa auditorium.

MCN official named 2014 Unsung Hero



Submission
Muscogee (Creek) Nation Secretary of Human and Community Services Cherrah Giles was named one of the five Mary Kay Foundation Unsung Heroes Sept. 10 in Washington, D.C.

Giles awarded for domestic violence prevention advocacy

Chelsie Rich/*Project Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) Nation Secretary of Community and Human Services Cherrah Giles was named one of the five Mary Kay Foundation Unsung Heroes Sept. 10 in Washington, D.C.

Giles received the award at the National Task Force to End Sexual and Domestic Violence event, 'Pillars of Empowerment.'

This event celebrates the 30-year anniversary for the passing of legislation, including the landmark Family Violence Prevention and Services Act and the Victims of Crime Act as well as the 20-year anniversary of the Violence Against Women Act.

"It's overwhelming to think somebody seen something in me to want to nominate me in consideration of the work that I've been doing," Giles said. "It's not about the awards. We do what we have to do to make things better."

Giles has been a key figure in working on behalf of Native women, testifying at U.S. House of Representatives briefings on the passage of tribal amendments and organizing the reauthorization of VAWA in 2013.

This was the bill's third reauthorization, and includes provisions for individual tribes to prosecute non-Native on Native sexual violence occurring on tribal land.

"It's the first time any Indian tribal had any jurisdiction over non-Indians… so it's a small victory but it's a huge victory for all of Indian country to be able to exercise our own sovereign authority," Giles said.

Giles also launched and managed 'Sliver of a Full Moon,' a play presented to re-enact the push for VAWA reauthorization with the Native American provisions included.

Giles shared her own story to shed light on why Native women are in desperate need of services funded under the VAWA Tribal Government Grant Program.

"I think what stood out a lot was my own personal story. My own survivor story of being a victim of domestic violence from my teen years, to my adulthood and even as an elected tribal official," Giles said.

Giles hopes her story can give victims the courage to come forward and get help.

"It literally was me being in my adult age walking into our Family Violence Prevention office and saying, 'I don't know what I can do to help but I want to help and here's my story,' " Giles said.

The mission of the MCN Family Violence Prevention Program is to provide advocacy and supportive services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking as well as community education and awareness in an effort to increase safety, achieve justice and promote healing for individuals, families and MCN tribal communities.

"I really want to thank the Family Violence Prevention Program here at Muscogee (Creek) Nation," Giles said. "It was again because of them, having the program available to be able to help do the outreach to make it a safe place; to feel comfortable."

Russian delegation visits MCN



MNN/Jessica McBride

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Six delegates from Russia arrived Sept. 12 to visit with Muscogee (Creek) Nation officials at the Executive Building on the MCN Tribal Complex.

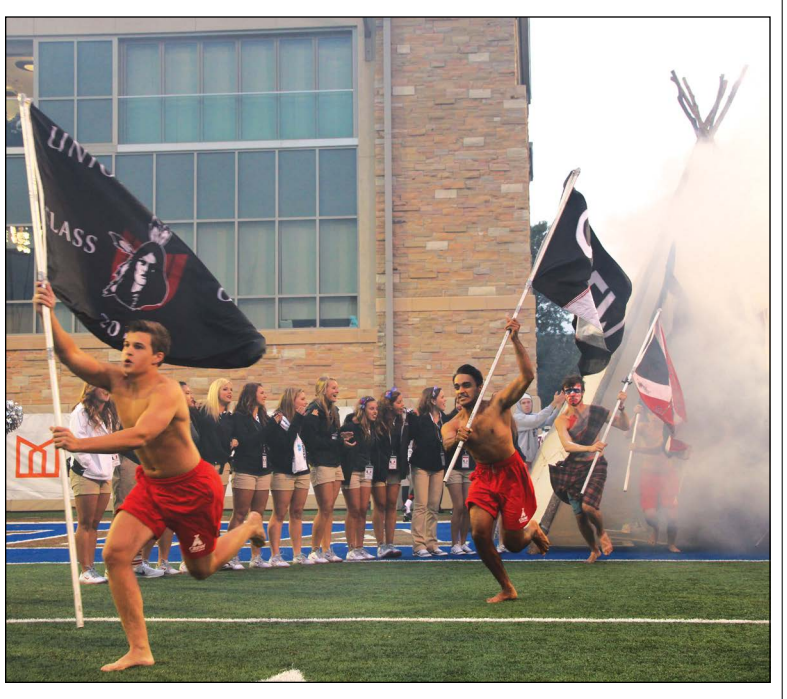
The visitors toured various Native American tribes in Oklahoma through the Tulsa Global Alliance Open World Program. The program is funded through the U.S. Library of Congress.

The theme for the visit was ethnic minorities and preservation of cultural identity. The visitors were from the Circassia region of Russia near the Black Sea, which has a distinctive culture from other groups in the country.

The 2014 Olympics in Sochi, Russia was controversial for the Circassians because the event coincided with the 150th anniversary of an alleged genocide by Russian troops in 1864.

Circassians were also upset that the Olympic Village was built on what is though to be a mass grave from the incident.

Local school uses controversial mascot for athletic teams



MNN/Jessica McBride
Union High School players made their entrance onto the University of Tulsa H.A. Chapman Stadium field Sept. 12 by running through a teepee filled with smoke for the Jenks High School vs. UHS football game.

MCN principal chief opposed to Native American mascots

Jessica McBride/*Editorial Assistant*

TULSA, Okla. — Recently, there has been controversy regarding the Washington, D.C., NFL team mascot.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office canceled the team's trademarks because the mascot was deemed, "disparaging to Native Americans."

The decision is currently under appeal by request from the team.

While activists fight on the national level, a public school located within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation jurisdiction uses the same mascot.

At the Backyard Bowl Sept. 12, featuring Jenks High School vs. Union High School at the University of Tulsa H.A. Chapman Stadium in Tulsa, a teepee was constructed and emblazoned with the Union Public School logo.

Flags bearing an image of a Native American with the mascot name embroidered below it was carried across the field to mark the grand entrance of the UHS football team.

Players sprinted through the teepee as smoke puffed through the air.

At the Listening Meeting Sept. 6 at the MCN Mound Building, MCN Principal Chief George Tiger stated he was opposed to the use of Native American mascots.

"As a former sports broadcaster, whenever I saw the team that I was covering playing someone that had a mascot of Indians or a logo of Indian, I never recognized that school's logo," Tiger said.

In a written statement provided to the 'Muscogee Nation News,' Union Public Schools Senior Executive Director of Communications Gretchen Haas-Bethell stated that the school has no intention of changing its mascot.

"In 2003, the Union Board of Education undertook extensive research, consideration and evaluation of input from groups and individuals both outside and within the Union community, including the district's Indian Education Committee.

"Given the overwhelming consensus among the members of the Union community to retain it, the Board of Education voted unanimously to keep the name. Since then, the consensus in the Union community has remained overwhelmingly in favor of retaining the name."

The statement also said that the district does not believe the name is disparaging to Native Americans.

"Definitions need to be in context of time, place and usage. In this day and age, in the Union community, "R……" is not derogatory; rather it defines a diverse, yet close-knit community that exhibits great pride and spirit in its schools and programs as well as in its determination and traditions of success."

In 2005, the National Collegiate Athletic Association adopted a policy to prohibit NCAA colleges and universities from, "displaying hostile and abusive racial/ethnic/national origin mascots, nicknames or imagery."

In compliance, Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Okla., changed its mascot to the RiverHawks, and Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant, Okla., changed its mascot to the Savage Storm.



Citizen receives democratic nomination for Oklahoma Senate

Dornan advances to face Thompson in general election

Jessica McBride/*Editorial Assistant*



Shutterstock

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Selina Jayne Dornan prevailed in the primary election Aug. 26 as the District 8 Oklahoma State senate democratic nominee.

Dornan won by 59.4 percent with 2,737 votes over Gary Clason, who received 40.6 percent or 1,870 votes.

She will go on to face Republican nominee Roger Thompson in the general election Nov. 4.

The senate seat is being vacated by Roger Ballenger, who announced he would not seek re-election in January.

District 8 encompasses a large rural area, including Okmulgee County, and portions of Okfuskee, Muskogee and McIntosh Counties. This is also a large portion of MCN jurisdiction.

During the Aug. 23 regular session of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council NCA 14-126, a bill appropriating $3,000 to Dornan's campaign, failed to reach the required two-thirds majority vote required for a political donation in excess of $2,000 pursuant to MCN Code Annotated, Title 35 Section 12-103.

During the session, NC Rep. Dode Barnett made her argument in favor of the legislation.

"I would just contend that a senate race is different," Barnett said. "We give $2,000 to someone who is running for county commissioner. A county commissioner race is way different than a senate race."

Rep. Mitch Jack, who voted against the legislation, said that Dornan had already received a previous donation.

"That was her second one that she was asking for, and we had already helped her out the first time," Jack said. "I think it's good that she's in there, but I'm all about being fair…"

Dornan's campaign received a $2,000 donation through NCA 14-079, which was passed in May.

According to her campaign website: www.selinaforsenate.com, Dornan feels that education cuts, the cities' aging infrastructure and the need for employment are issues that she would like to tackle.

"My number one priority is going to be looking at teacher pay," Dornan said. "Our children suffer when, you know; our teachers aren't being paid what they should be paid."

Thompson, who is from Okemah, Okla., is the president of News Leader Company, which publishes the 'Okemah News Leader' and the 'Tri-County Herald.'

As part of his platform, Thompson hopes to create a better workforce.

"Number one, closing the gap between what we turn out of our career techs and what our employers actually need and number two, working in our local school system to have stringent standards so that when our students graduate," he said.

Thompson stated that jobs are important to Indians and non-Indians alike.

For more information about Thompson's campaign visit: www.thompson4oksenate.com.

For more information about voting in Oklahoma call the Oklahoma State Election Board at: 405-521-2391 or visit: www.ok.gov/elections/index.html.

Echo-Hawk speaks on Native American rights



MNN/Amanda Rutland
The Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court invited Indian law attorney Walter Echo-Hawk, Sr. to speak about his books Aug. 29 in the MCN District Courtroom in Okmulgee, Okla.

Indian law attorney gives lecture over his books

Amanda Rutland/*Media Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Author and Indian law attorney Walter Echo-Hawk, Sr. was invited to speak Aug. 29 at a Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court luncheon held in the MCN District Courtroom in Okmulgee.

Echo-Hawk spoke about his book, 'In the Courts of the Conqueror: The 10 Worst Indian Law Cases Ever Decided,' which was published in 2010 and his new book, published in summer 2013, 'In the Light of Justice: The Rise of Human Rights in Native America & the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.'

Echo-Hawk started writing his first book because he believed others could learn from his experiences. He had written law articles in the past and contributed to books.

"As I grow older and more gray, I felt like I wanted to share some of my experiences in practice in federal Indian Law," Echo-Hawk said.

Echo-Hawk explained that the cases in, 'In the Courts of the Conqueror' set the foundation for the rights or lack of rights in Indian Country.

"This book is written for the general reading public. It is not written for judges or attorneys or law students necessarily," Echo-Hawk said.

Echo-Hawk said that although past legalities that condoned slavery and segregation have been overturned, many of the laws regarding Native Americans have not. Many of the laws he referred to were developed Pre-Removal to expand American territory.

"We have a very real dark side built into our legal framework," Echo-Hawk said. "Notions of race and racism built in to these cases along with a lot of unjust legal fictions, the Doctrine of Discovery."

Echo-Hawk defined the Doctrine of Discovery as the idea that, by Europeans seeing the American coastline, it transferred ownership of this land to Great Britain and then eventually to the U.S.

Echo-Hawk said there were not books like this available when he attended law school in the 1970s.

"I am very gratified that a lot of Native American studies courses in colleges are using this as a text book around the country, at Yale University all the way out to U.C. Davis," Echo-Hawk said. "I have used it to teach law classes as my text book."

Echo-Hawk's first book dealt with laws of the past and the effects of these laws. His new book, 'In the Light of Justice' proposes what the future could hold.

In 2010, the Obama administration endorsed the U.N. Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Echo-Hawk explained that it created a new framework based on human rights unlike anything that has been seen in Indian Country before.

"It would say, for example, that our right to self-government is a fundamental human right," Echo-Hawk said. "It is something no nation can take away."

According to Echo-Hawk, a series of U.S. Supreme Court rulings give Congress the ability to terminate tribes and abolish governments, at will.

Echo-Hawk went on to say that the endorsement of the U.N. declaration directly negates the ability to eradicate self-government. The declaration outlined sovereignty, land, environmental rights and more.

"With the United States endorsing this declaration, it is technically already a part of U.S. policy, but it hasn't been implemented," Echo-Hawk said.

Echo-Hawk believes all Native people in America benefit from the pursuit of implementing human rights.

Clan chronicles: insights into history

Clans impact generations passed

Amanda Rutland/*Media Specialist*
Suncircle graphic by: **David King**

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Clans were an important part of Mvskoke culture. They appear in stories and as artwork on some tribal buildings. The relevance of clans has dwindled from what it was before Removal.

Clans are matrilineal; meaning a child inherits their clan from the mother. Members of the same clan could not marry as such a union was considered to be incestuous. However, it was considered good to marry someone of your grandfather's clan.

Clan members were extended family. In the book, 'Creeks and Seminoles: The Destruction and Regeneration of the Muscogulge People,' author J. Leitch Wright, Jr. wrote, "If a Wolf visited another town he customarily resided with and was fed by his Wolf brothers and sisters."

Ethnologist John Swanton recorded that each clan had a clan elder that handled affairs of the clan internally and was consulted on important matters. He said that the elders were men, but current citizens have said the elders were women, clan mothers.



Swanton believed that the clan elder was responsible for educating the children of the clan.

"He went from house to house, gathering the children around him telling them tales, singing songs, instructing them first in their duties at home, obedience to their superiors," Swanton wrote.

Clans were also responsible for the punishment of crimes against clan members.

Swanton explained that if a clan member was murdered, then the clan decided what to do with the murderer. Sometimes that murderer was adopted into the clan to take the place of the murdered person.

"If the murderer himself was a man of small repute, it often happened that his clansmen consented to his death," Swanton wrote.

Swanton also reported that, just as etvlwvs (towns) were either red or white; clans were also. White clans were called hvrakvlke, meaning peace and included: the Wind, Skunk, Beaver, Bear, Wolf, and Bird Clans.

The red clans were called celokhokvlke, which translates as, 'people of another language.'

One of the red clans was aktvyahche, meaning, 'of the water' or 'those who hatch from eggs.' 'A Dictionary of Creek/Muskogee' written by Jack B. Martin and Margaret McKane Mauldin, defines it as Water Snake or Water Tiger Clan.

Other red clans included: the Fox, Tiger, Potato, Alligator, Raccoon and Deer Clans.

Some clans switched between red and white to maintain balance. Some clans were considered related to another. Skunks were related to the Wind Clan and raccoons were considered a relative of the Potato Clan.

At one time, there were 40 or more clans. Swanton identified some of these smaller or now extinct clans in the 'Bureau of American Ethnology Bulletin 137' such as: arrow, cane, daddy-long-legs, lye drip, hickory nut and toad.

According to Muscogee (Creek) Nation Cultural Preservation Traditional Cultural Specialist and Tallahassee Ceremonial Ground Mekko David Proctor, a man's clan dictated his name.

Proctor also said that at Tallahassee, a person has to have participated in four Greencorn Ceremonies for eligibility to be named. Upon receiving a name, he has become a man regardless of physical age and is considered a warrior.

"Even if you are like 40 or 50-years-old, in the ceremonial circle; if you don't have that name; you are still considered a child," Proctor said.

Names are two words. The first word would be related to clan and the second word was a title that could be war related, such as fekseko meaning heartless or brave.

Within each etvlwv, only specific clans could hold higher positions, such as mekko (roughly, king) and henehv (roughly, judge). However, the ruling clan varied from etvlwv to etvlwv.

For example, Hickory Ceremonial Ground recognizes the Bird Clan as the top clan, but Tallahassee has chosen the Beaver Clan.

Clans governed which arbors the men sat under and each ground was different.

According to elder Joe Sulphur, ceremonial grounds used to have different songs relating to clans. The dance was not any different than other stomp-dances. For example if it was the deer dance, then only Deer Clan members danced.

Hickory Ceremonial Ground member Mike Harjo said he was told that the spirit of a clan could be called on for healing. Each clan had a corresponding medicine.

"They would have a chant. They would ask you what your clan is. They would call upon your clan; like the spirit would come back and help heal you," Harjo said. "I don't know if anybody still does that anymore, but that is what I was told."

Clan held an importance in the lives of citizens.

In the following articles, we will explore the specifics of each clan.

CORN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

zens and officials.

"Not only being among Creek Nation but having other representatives of different tribes here and to hear them talk is an honor," Carmen said.

Carmen spoke on how important corn is to indigenous peoples' health, tradition and ways of life.

"It is not only corn that is brought up in this conference," Carmen said. "We also talked about beans and squash and how we use these in our traditions and culture. This is the basis of our ceremonies and we can see in all of our people the health effects from the types of foods."

She brought up how imperative it is to keep growing these foods and the negative affects of buying them in supermarkets.

"We know that it is easy to buy but a lot of the corn and beans are genetically modified. It does not have the health benefits that our traditional corn, beans and squash have.

"We all need to understand that we need to keep our tradition going with our agriculture and for our culture," Carmen said.

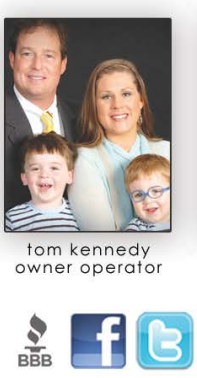
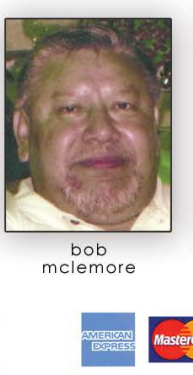
The Corn Conference ended Sept. 9 and the results were to be discussed at 40th Anniversary International Treaty Council Conference scheduled Sept. 10-11 near Okemah, Okla.

A word search from the Mvskoke Language Preservation Program: *Clans*

KACCVLKE — Tiger Clan
VHVLVKVLKE — Potato Clan
WOTKVLKE — Raccoon Clan
ECOVLKE — Deer Clan
ECHASWVLKE — Beaver Clan
NOKOSVLKE — Bear Clan
HVLPVTVLKE — Alligator Clan
FUSWVLKE — Bird Clan
HOTVLKVLKE — Wind Clan

T V K E E K L V W S A H C E V V K V E E
K V K A K V O E O K A C C V L K E S K V
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MCN VASO celebrates 10th anniversary



MNN/Amanda Rutland
Muscogee (Creek) Nation Veterans Affairs Service Office Director Ken Davis embraces VASO Executive Officer Shawn Taryole.

Defending those who have defended

Amanda Rutland/*Media Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The atrium inside the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Veterans Affairs Services Office building in Okmulgee, Okla., was quiet and cool on the overcast morning of Sept. 7. The small VASO staff gathered to celebrate the department's 10th anniversary.

Forthcoming MCN Veterans Board Chairman Joe Taylor joined VASO Director Ken Davis, Executive Officer Shawn Taryole and Operations Officer Chelsie Dickerson for the occasion.

The event was modest and consisted of going out for breakfast, sharing a cake complete with 10 candles and reflecting on the moment.

Davis placed the candles under each staff members name and each member lit the corresponding candles. Davis stated his candles represented the beginning, Taryole's candles represented the present and Dickerson's candles represented the future.

While lighting the candles Davis spoke.

"The fires we start is the fires we tend. We don't start fires without tending to our fires. That is why we are still warm," Davis said, "and when I am done with my fire, I will blow it out myself."

Davis explained that he has always celebrated the anniversaries of VASO, but this is the first time that anyone else has joined him.

"I have always came in very early on the day of the 7th of September, albeit no matter what year, and just rededicated myself to keep doing what I am doing and to improve," Davis said.

Davis said he feels fortunate to work with Taryole and Dickerson.

"I work with two fantastic people, Shawn Taryole…who is without a doubt the nicest guy in our tribe; then I work with Chelsie Dickerson," Davis said. "She has the heart and desire to learn this."

According to Davis, VASO has helped veterans obtain benefits they might not have otherwise received.

"I have heard the horror stories of some of our veterans when they went to other entities on their own," Davis said. "Literally some of them have been called Tonto, Chief. Questions asked of them, 'How many papooses do you have?' What is the address of your teepee?'"

Davis said those days are over and that he will fight on behalf of MCN veterans because they have earned those benefits.

The three person staff opens cases, upgrades cases and ensures paperwork reaches the correct destination.

Previously, paperwork was submitted to the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs by a memorandum of understanding. Now claims are submitted directly to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Davis believes VASO should have been founded 20 years before it actually was.

"A lot of our veterans and surviving spouses have absolutely passed away without receiving what they have earned with their blood, sweat and tears," Davis said.

Dickerson said she feels honored to be given the responsibility of carrying on in the future.

"It is a lot to learn, but I really feel that I have a good mentor to help me," Dickerson said.

Taryole said in his six years of employment at VASO, he has learned to set goals and accomplish them.

"How has it changed me? Being able to see how it changes our guys and really help them out; that really inspires me," Taryole said.

VASO looks forward to another 10 years.

Muscogee (Creek) citizen gives back to tribe

Lowe strives to promote tourism, recreation

Jessica McBride/*Editorial Assistant*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tourism and Recreation Director William Lowe grew up in Eufaula, Okla., and attended the Eufaula Dormitory.

Lowe, a Muscogee (Creek) citizen, served in the U.S. Marine Corps for nine years as an infantry sergeant.

"One thing that I'm very proud of is they have a professional military education, which is called the Sergeants Course," Lowe said.

The Sergeants Course provides selected individuals instruction in order to become leaders of small units.

The three month long course brings in sergeants from across the U.S. Marine Corps.

"I graduated honor graduate, which is the top, number one graduate there," Lowe said. "But my name is on a plaque in the Marine Corps Museum at Quantico for the rest of my life."

The National Museum of the Marine Corps is located in Triangle, Va., near Marine Corps Base Quantico.

"The reason I got into tourism was because of the Marine Corps," Lowe said.

Lowe, who is also Seminole, attended Bacone College in Muskogee, Okla., and received a Bachelor of Business Administration.



MNN File Photo
Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tourism and Recreation Director and Muscogee (Creek) citizen William Lowe aims to promote tribal tourism.

Lowe has worked for the Cherokee Heritage Center in Tahlequah, Okla., and was the executive director of the Grand Lake Association in Grove, Okla.

Lowe said that he has dealt with MCN through scholarships and organizations, and now would like to give back to the Nation.

"For me, personally, I've been through the whole system and now it's my time to give back to the tribe and represent us in such a professional way in the tourism industry," Lowe said.

Lowe serves on several boards for tourism and recreation organizations such as: the American Indian Chamber of Commerce, American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association, Green Country Marketing Association, Lake Eufaula Association and Okmulgee Main Street.

This is Lowe's third year on the board of directors for AIANTA.

Lowe was a 2011 recipient of the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development Native American 40 Under 40 Award.

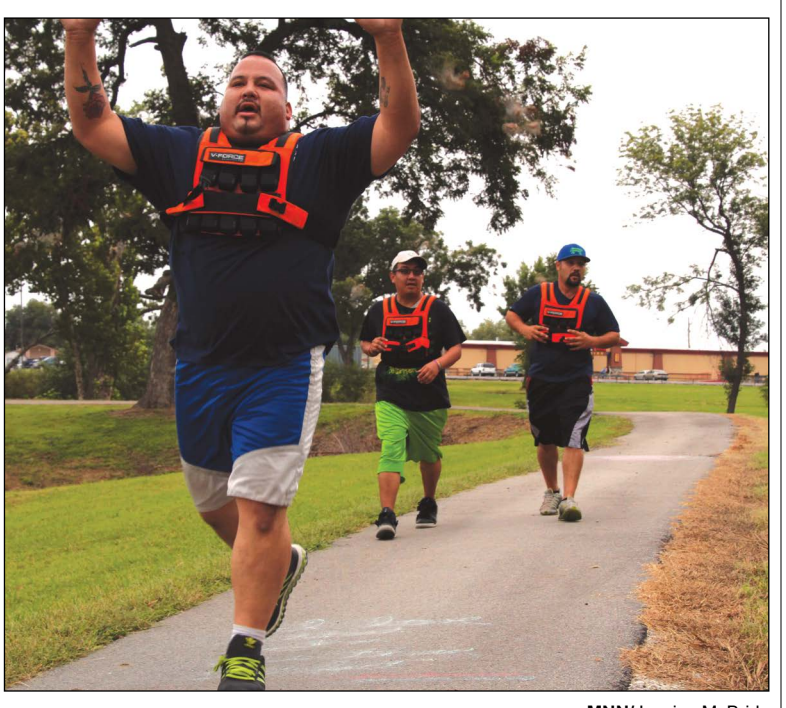
"Right now I'm still the only tourism industry Native American that has received the 40 under 40 award from NCAIED," Lowe said.

Lowe said that he always wants to represent MCN the best that he can, and through serving in different organizations, help other tribes promote their culture.

"My mission is to teach people the right way to promote their tribal areas, their natural resources and not exploit it," Lowe said.

Lowe is a member of the Bird Clan and Nuyaka Tribal Town.

BIA Okmulgee Agency Fire Team tests firefighters



MNN/Jessica McBride
Bureau of Indian Affairs Okmulgee Agency firefighters work Sept. 11 to complete the pack test for agency certification at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Complex walking track.

Firefighters walk to become certified

Jessica McBride/*Editorial Assistant*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — While many were observing the 13th anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the U.S., around 20 Bureau of Indian Affairs firemen took their pack test at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Complex walking track to certify as wildland firefighters.

The test is a three-mile walk, which must be completed in 45 minutes while wearing a 45-pound vest. One foot must remain on the ground at all times. The pack test is used to measure aerobic capacity, muscular strength and muscular endurance.

"We do this on a yearly basis to keep up our red cards; our qualification for all levels of firefighting," BIA Okmulgee Agency Fire Coordinator Clint Davis said.

The BIA fire team assists with wildfires on MCN trust and restricted land.

"We protect those boundaries… we basically work for the tribe. We're the federal entity," Davis said. "But we have the tribe's interest when we're doing this."

BIA Prevention Inspector Charlie Harley said that the team assisted with the wildfire in Bristow several years ago.

"That one was 60,000 acres and destroyed over 300 homes," Harley said. "That was the biggest fire in Eastern Oklahoma history so far and we're trying to prevent that from happening again."

Harley conducts fire education classes at schools and for the public to aid in prevention.

Davis and Harley are the only full-time employees for the BIA Okmulgee Agency. The rest of the team are administratively determined firefighters.

"We hire A.D. firefighters and they're basically a part-time position," Davis said.

Many of the firefighters have other part-time jobs or serve on the fire team on the side.

During the busy times, firefighters will work 14 days on and then receive two days off.

This year, the team assisted with fires in Washington State and California.

Firefighter Michael Harrison described his experience in Washington.

"It was very beautiful country, but it was very sad to see the houses just leveled out from the fire," Harrison said. "The whole community was without electricity and, you know; we got in there and did the best we can. People were very supportive out there and enjoyed our presence."

This will be Harrison's second year as a BIA firefighter.

"It takes guts," Harrison said. "You've got to be a special breed to be able to hike mountains and be able to handle the dirtiness and roughness of it."

Aside from fighting wildfires, Harrison is also a mixed martial arts fighter and a comedian.

He gave advice for anyone who was interested in joining the team.

"Just get in shape. Stay in great shape, have will power and you know; always be ready to push yourself," Harrison said. "If it was easy, everybody would do it."

To learn how to become a BIA firefighter, call Clint Davis at: 918-752-7397.

To schedule a fire education class, call Charlie Harley at: 918-752-7340.



2014 Kihekah Steh Pow-Wow Club Princess crowned



Submission
Julia Wakeford (right) is crowned 2014-2015 Kihekah Steh Pow-Wow Club Princess July 25 in Skiatook, Okla., by her aunt Andrea 'Niki' Baker, the 1986 KSPC princess, (left).

Wakeford takes next step in life

Chelsie Rich/*Project Specialist*

JENKS, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Julia Wakeford was crowned the 2014-2015 Kihekah Steh Pow-Wow Club Princess July 25 in Skiatook, Okla.

Wakeford grew up attending the Kihekah Steh Pow-Wow where her grandfather has been the master of ceremonies for many years.

"Since I was a little girl, standing at my Pah-Pah's side at the speaker stand; it has been a dream of mine to be Kihekah Steh Pow-Wow Club princess," Wakeford said.

Wakeford was selected by a committee to represent the Kihekah Steh organization over the next year.

"The duties for being a princess would be you represent the organization that has honored you with this title… and be a representative of the committee as an ambassador to reflect well on their values." Wakeford said.

Wakeford was crowned by her aunt Andrea 'Niki' Baker who was the KSPC princess in 1986.

Wakeford has held the titles of 2012 Intertribal Indian Club of Tulsa princess and the Circle of Friends and Spirits Keeping Individuals 'N Sobriety (SKINS) Pow-Wow princess and 2010 Euchee Tribal princess.

Wakeford is 18-years-old and a 2014 graduate of Jenks High School.

Wakeford made the decision to move out of state to attend college and will be attending Swarthmore College in Swarthmore, Pa., which is over 1,200 miles away.

Swarthmore College is a private liberal arts college located just outside of Philadelphia with enrollment around 1,500 students.

It has a very low Native American population.

"Swarthmore has a very solid academic reputation… and when I was looking at colleges, I wanted something that would give me a close knit community," Wakeford said. "But what I really like about Swarthmore in particular, it has a commitment to cultural diversity and to social justice."

While in high school, Wakeford was part of the debate and mock trial teams and was interested in history and English.

"Going to college, I'm really interested in a liberal arts degree that would allow me to pursue my interest in history, art history, literature… while also looking towards law school," Wakeford said.

Wakeford's grandfather is the one who sparked her interest in tribal law.

"He talked to me about some of the struggles that the tribe had been going through as far as dealing with the Oklahoma Legislator as well as the U.S. government and the BIA's presence; and the way a lot of Indian country works and a lot the struggles that we still see in courts to this day, " Wakeford said.

Wakeford's family has influenced her traditionally and educationally.

"I've never had the question of would I go to college or not. It's always been certain that my parents and grandparents would make sure that I would go to college," Wakeford said. "They inspire me to stay strong both in academics and my culture."

Wakeford is a member of the Bear Clan, Duck Creek Ceremonial Ground, Horse District of the I-Lo Ska and Montesoma Indian Baptist Church.

Wakeford is the daughter of Marcy and O. Steven Wakeford, III of Jenks, Okla.

Wakeford is the granddaughter of Ramona and Archie Mason, Andrew and Carmelita Skeeter of Tulsa, Okla., and the late Sherry and Dr. O. Steven Wakeford, II.

Citizen selected as senior olympics president

Conrad represents MCN from states away

Chelsie Rich/*Project Specialist*



Submission
Muscogee (Creek) citizen and President of the Wyoming Senior Olympics Marty Conrad with his prizes for winning the singles and doubles titles at the Wyoming Governor's Cup Tennis Tournament.

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Marty Conrad has been selected to serve as president of the Wyoming Senior Olympics Games.

Conrad is a full blood Muscogee (Creek) citizen, who is originally from Oklahoma, but through his journey made his way to Lander, Wyo.

Conrad earned two master's degrees in education, one from Arizona State University and one from the University of Wyoming.

Conrad has been in the education field for 40 years.

Over those 31 years, he taught social studies and was a principal, athletic director and head coach for football, wrestling, basketball and baseball.

Conrad has taught in Arizona, Idaho, California, Kansas and Oklahoma.

For the past nine years, Conrad has worked as an instructional facilitator in Wyoming.

In Wyoming, Conrad was asked to serve on the Board of Directors for the Senior Olympics in hopes to increase Native American participation in the games.

"It's very rare especially here in Wyoming… I don't think they've ever had a full-blood Native American as president," Conrad said.

Conrad had been on the board for nine years and has served as the president for the last four.

"We just had our games in July and in our board meeting; they elected me for two more years as the president," Conrad said.

The Wyoming Senior Olympics and Board of Directors support the belief that participation in athletic events has a positive physical, psychological and social impact.

"We have 42 types of events… had over 500 athletes at our games," Conrad said.

Opportunities for athletic competition at the adult level are limited in scope and the Wyoming Senior Olympics is striving to fulfill the needs of individuals over 50-years-old.

"People like to come and participate and compete in various events. Meeting other people from other states and enjoying each others company and of course stories," Conrad said.

Conrad said that a 94-year-old man participated in track and received a standing ovation.

While making sure everything was going as planned for the 2014 games, Conrad entered a few events himself.

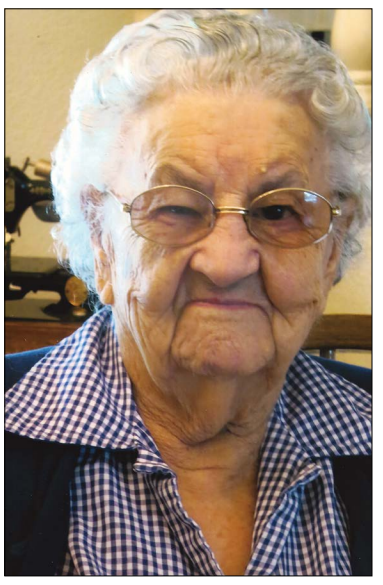
"I'm 61-years-old and it's great to participate and play everyday," Conrad said.

He won gold in tennis singles, basketball free throws, 3-point shot, silver in the softball throw and took fourth place in the 100-meter dash.

Conrad also entered the Wyoming Governor's Cup where he won two Governor's Cup tennis championships, one for singles and the other for doubles.

Conrad is the son of Beatrice Carr-Deere from Henryetta, Okla., a member of Thlopthlocco Tribal Town and a veteran of the U.S. National Guard.

A citizen observed: Adeline Griffin Feathers



Article courtesy of 'Tribal Town Radio' and Sandy Fife-Wilson

LOOMIS, Ca. — On April 12, 2014, 95 guests, which included five generations of kin, joined Adeline Griffin Feathers in the celebration of her 100th birthday at the home of her son Larry Feathers in Loomis.

Adeline is a Muscogee (Creek) citizen and was born April 11, 1914, on her mother's Muscogee (Creek) allotment in Northfork Community located near the North Canadian River between Dustin and Weleetka, Okla.

Adeline's parents were Fannie Watson Griffin and William C. Griffin. Adeline, the oldest child, had a sister, Carmen Griffin Fife and a brother, William Silas Griffin called Billy Tok'se or Junior Bill.

"See that red headed kid? He says he's Creek."

"He is; he's my kin."

- John Watson in regards to Junior Bill

Grandpa Josiah Randolph Watson named her "Sweet Adeline" after his daughter. Their mother died May 30, 1918 during a flu epidemic after contracting the disease while caring for her sister Jane Evans who also died, leaving an infant son, Gaines.

Adeline was four-years-old, Carmen three, and Junior Bill was four months.

When their mother died, Willow Griffin Carlisle, called 'Aunt Wid,' took the children to raise her own young children. For a brief time, she nursed three infants, Gaines, Junior Bill and her own child.

Not long after, Aunt Liza Kanard and her daughter Polly, full blood Muscogee (Creek) relatives on their mother's side, came after Junior Bill to raise him. They taught him Mvskoke, his first language.

He had fair skin, freckles and red hair. Adeline recalls her cousin John Watson telling about a man pointing out Bill and saying, "See that red headed kid? He says he's Creek." John said, "He is; he's my kin."

Adeline has fond childhood memories, which involve her Uncle Buckner McGirt from Yeager, Okla., and Uncle Dan Watson from Northfork. Uncle Buckner was a Methodist minister, and she and Carmen would stay with his family during the summers.

He had three boys, John Bill and Tom, and three girls, Fannie, Nellie and Lizzie. Adeline said he tried to teach them Mvskoke but she only learned two words, pen'wv (turkey) and tol'ose (chicken).

By the time Adeline and Carmen were ready to enter high school, their father had remarried and the family had grown: Esther (older stepsister), Grettah, Hazel, Rubalee, Grettah, Bob and Joan. Their father had brought Junior Bill home from Aunt Liza's several years earlier.

Her beloved Uncle Dan Watson lived just down the road from her own home. He was her mother's brother and their allotments were adjacent. He asked the two girls if they would like to go to boarding school.

He and Aunt Hannah, his wife, always had nice cars and they drove them to Chilocco Indian Agricultural School in Kay County near the Kansas border. Aunt Hannah, who spoke only Mvskoke, did most of the driving. They loved Chilocco and all the teachers.

She worked in the sewing room the first nine months with Mrs. Thompkins. Adeline spent three years there, along with her sister Carmen, brother Bill and cousin Gaines Evans.

In the 1933-34 academic year, Carmen returned to Chilocco. However, Adeline had fallen so in love with Buford 'Runt' Feathers that she stayed at home and graduated at Graham, which had replaced the Northfork school.

Carmen graduated as valedictorian at Chilocco. At graduation time at Graham, the school flooded and all roads were closed. There was no graduation or end-of-year program. Three to four weeks later, Adeline received her diploma in the mail with a note from the superintendent, which said he was glad to have another Griffin graduate at Graham.

Today, Adeline is very independent. She likes to eat and says she is a meat and potatoes girl. She has seven sewing machines. For years, she made all her own and her boys' clothes. She has been using the same dress pattern for 1090 years (ha).

She makes quilts—about a dozen a year. She sings 'Oh, Chilocco' at the beginning of her day and other songs her Papa taught her. She also recites poetry and reads books. " 'Heaven is for Real' was good," she says, and she likes to read John Grisham.

Adeline married Buford 'Runt' Feathers in 1934. In 1936, their son Randolph 'Randy' was born. On his 13th birthday, they arrived in California. They had two other sons by then: Roger and Larry.

Her Papa, W.C. Griffin, moved to California during the aftermath of the Dust Bowl. Papa was 64-years-old when he died. Runt and Adeline lived in a tent for 13 months after they arrived in California. Their son Stanley was born in 1953.

In California, Adeline worked at John Engles Frozen Foods and then at a cannery. Runt worked at the magnesium plant in Montinigra and then in a cannery. His brother was his foreman.

Adeline received an honorary diploma June 8, from Chilocco Indian Agricultural School.

MVSKOKE HALL OF FAME

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SATURDAY
2014 OCTOBER 25
2:00 PM
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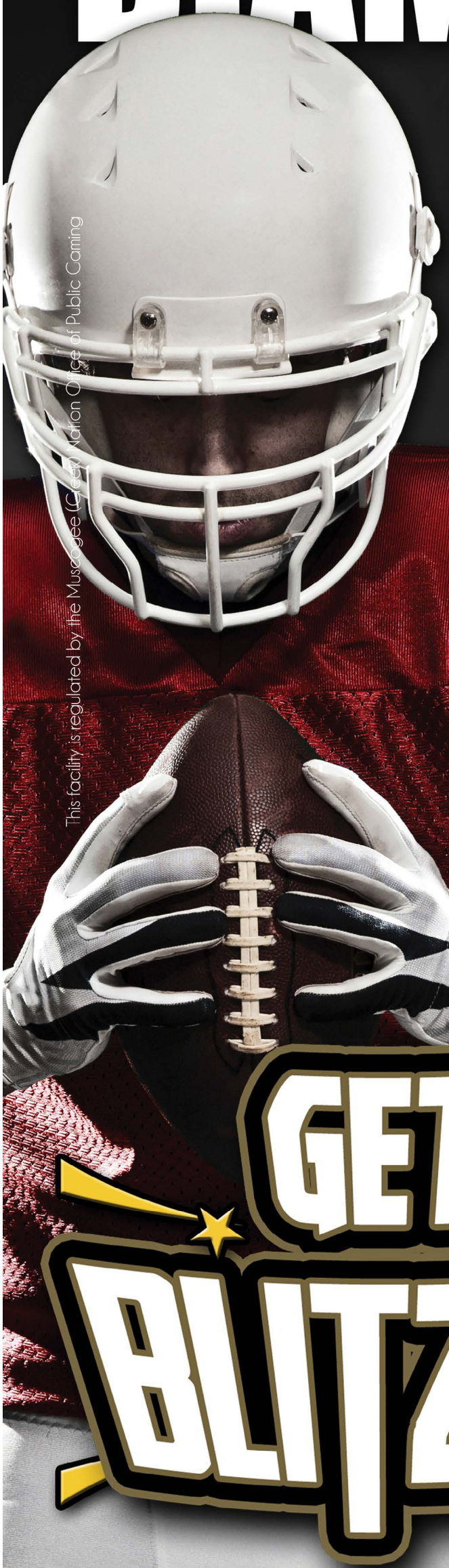
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FREE WIFI

Website shows worst places to live



MNN/Amanda Rutland

In a recent survey available at www.areavibes.com, Okmulgee, Okla., was ranked one of the 10 worst places to live in Oklahoma for populations over 5,000.

Henryetta, Okmulgee officials address ranking stigma

Jessica McBride/*Editorial Assistant*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — On June 24, www.cnbc.com posted an article listing the 10 worst states to live in. The rating system was comprised of crime rate, local attractions, health care and environmental factors.

Oklahoma came in at the number two spot for weaknesses in health, crime, air quality and local attractions.

To make Muscogee (Creek) Nation jurisdiction residents even more dispirited, www.areavibes.com sorts places to live around the U.S. When searching for worst livability in Oklahoma for populations over 5,000; Henryetta, Wagoner and Okmulgee, all communities within the MCN jurisdiction ranked within the 10 worst places to live.

The scores are based upon amenities, cost of living, crime rates, education, employment, housing and weather.

However, for Henryetta Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Roy Madden, beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

"Henryetta is a really great place to live and this report doesn't really portray that," Madden said.

HCC feels that the formula for calculating the worst places to live is flawed because of the weight given to the characteristics.

"It's hard to compare Henryetta; a community of just under 6,000 to a community of 500,000 like Edmond, Oklahoma," Madden said. "That's a very affluent community and we're a very rural community."

Madden said that Henryetta has amenities similar to that of larger cities, from restaurants to recreation. He said that the website does not take into account a quiet community or recreational amenities such as a park.

He believes residents see a benefit to living in a smaller community whether, it is affordability or the convenience of not having to fight traffic.

"They chose to live in these small rural communities and many people live here and they commute to Tulsa and other larger areas because of the livability of this community," Madden said.

Madden was aware of the survey, and called it a "positive antagonist."

"It makes us look at ourselves a little bit better and say by the way, where can we improve?" he said. "We are always looking at that but now we have more people looking at that because we have pride in this community and no one wants to say they live in the worst community in Oklahoma."

Okmulgee Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Rob Robertson has lived in Okmulgee and larger communities and said that Okmulgee is his home.

Though he says that Okmulgee is not perfect, the community is working to fix problems, better the education system and bring in new businesses.

"I've been here 40 years and there are more positive things going on in Okmulgee, Oklahoma right now than there ever have been," Robertson said.

Robertson said that organizations such as OCC, MCN, Okmulgee Main Street, and the City of Okmulgee are making an effort to work together to better the community.

"Okmulgee is not dead. It has suffered like many other small communities of its size have," Robertson said. "We're going to come back. Okmulgee is rising."

The MCN jurisdiction includes Tulsa and surrounding suburban areas. Other than that, a majority of the jurisdiction is rural with small communities.

MCN Tourism and Recreation Director William Lowe said that even with the downturn of the economy, these small communities are still alive.

"Realistically, little communities have been here forever," Lowe said. "We've all hit hard times and the economy has went down, but you know; the towns are still surviving."

Lowe said that MCN played a huge factor in economic development in the area; an example being the purchase of the MCN Medical Center, formerly known as the Okmulgee Memorial Hospital.

"I think people are going to start realizing how many jobs that's going to start bringing in," Lowe said.

TR recently unveiled a new website: www.creektourism.com. The site lists historical and entertainment sites in the area, as well as events held throughout the year.

The department also released the 'Official Guide to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation,' giving a history of the tribe and detailing information on districts within MCN. A digital copy of the booklet is available on the department's website.

Lowe makes it a priority of his staff to promote local businesses. His department also promotes MCN at every chance they're given.

"Our mission is to drive traffic," Lowe said. "We promote all the gaming locations, we promote our gas stations. We also promote Stone Blade. Anything Muscogee (Creek) Nation owns, we're promoting it."

On the opposite side of the spectrum, www.areavibes.com shows the best livability list with a population over 5,000 in Oklahoma. Areas within the MCN jurisdiction that made the top 10 include Broken Arrow and Jenks.

Emvpanyv: 'One who tells a story'



Mascots, the 'Doctrine of Discovery' and Native women awards

Gary Fife/*Radio Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Feelings against the wearing of war bonnets by non-Natives continues to grow, this time 'down under' in Australia.

The Meredith Music Festival compiled a 'what not to bring' list, including feathered Native American headdresses. That follows Canada's Bass Coast Festival, which announced a similar policy about two months ago.

KING 5 News reported that leaders in Seattle held up a vote on a resolution to designate the second Monday of each October as Indigenous Peoples' Day.

The city council was set to approve the resolution but members postponed the vote after Mayor Ed Murray requested a delay saying he wants to sign the resolution closer to the actual date of the new holiday, according to news reports.

The day would replace Columbus Day.

Fox Sports reports the Washington R.....s still defend their team name against a critics, but fewer fans are buying shirts, hats and other team merchandise. As CNN reports, R.....s merchandise sales are down 35 percent. A team spokesman claims the drop had more to do with the team's 3-13 record last season.

And for something closer to home: at recent Oklahoma State University football game against the Florida State Seminoles, a group of students displayed a sign that showed incredible ignorance, especially from college kids at a institute of higher learning in 'Native America.'

The sign read: "Send 'em home #trail_of_tears #go pokes."

Quickly, the sign spurred an uproar and finally an apology by the OSU student who authored the sign, junior Austin Buchanan.

Afterwards, the OSU Twitter account initially favored the sign on social media. The university later issued a brief statement denouncing the message as offensive.

The statement: "OSU does not condone the insensitive sign shown at today's Game Day event and have requested that it be removed."

A group of Catholic nuns based in Colorado have asked the Pope to get rid of the 15th-century doctrine that allows Christians to seize Native land.

The 'Religion News Service' reported Sept. 9 that Sister Maureen Fiedler of the Loretto Community gave a letter to Pope Francis' ambassador in Washington, D.C., requesting him to renounce a series of 15th century church documents that justify the colonization and oppression of indigenous peoples, the 'Doctrine of Discovery.'

The 'Doctrine of Discovery' is a series of decrees giving Christian explorers the right to lay claim to any land that was not inhabited by Christians, deeming said land as available to be "discovered." The doctrine stated that if inhabitants could be converted, they might be spared. If not, they could be enslaved or killed.

Although it's about 600 years old, the policy popped up recently in the debate about the racism and exploitation of Native American sports mascots, Fiedler said. It has justified efforts to eliminate indigenous languages, practices and worldviews, and it affects Native American sovereignty and treaty obligations.

In 2005, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg cited the 'Doctrine of Discovery' in a ruling against the Oneidas.

Now, if we can just get rid of all the other old claims by the Spanish, French, English, Dutch and Russians.

Did those countries conveniently forget the Nations that were already here?

The White House webpage reports that Mitchelene BigMan, President and Founder of Native American Women Warriors Organization, was awarded the 'Society of American Indian Government Employees' honor for her efforts in being a voice for Native American women veterans.

NAWW is the first ever recognized all Native American women color guard. The purpose of NAWW is to bring recognition to all women veterans, especially those of Native American descent, and their contributions to the military.

And finally, a Muscogee (Creek) citizen Sarah Deer received one of this year's 'Genius Grants' from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

Deer was recognized for her work to prevent violence against American Indian and Alaska Native women. She was one of the people who championed the passage of the Tribal Law and Order Act, which recognized tribal jurisdiction and the Violence Against Women Act reauthorization in 2013.

The foundation declared, "Sarah Deer is a legal scholar and advocate leveraging her deep understanding of tribal and federal law to develop policies and legislation that empower tribal nations to protect Native American women from the pervasive and intractable problem of sexual and domestic violence."

The grant comes with a $625,000 award.

Well done Sarah.

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‘Native News Today’ puts Indian Country on air



MNN/Jesscia McBride
‘Native News Today’ Multimedia Specialist Tyler Roberds (left) and Multimedia Producer Jason Salsman (center) interview a Bureau of Indian Affairs fireman for a segment on the department’s pack test certification.

Show strives for continual improvement

Sterling Cosper/*MNN Editor*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — ‘Native News Today’ Multimedia Producer Jason Salsman started at Mvskoke Media with his training from the University of Oklahoma Gaylord College of Journalism, a goal and a loose idea of how to reach it.

“I knew how to do packages and pitch the stories but we were really unsure of a structure,” Salsman said.

It did not take too long for him to recognize the impact the show could make however.

In 2006, Muscogee (Creek) Nation built a new home for an elderly Muscogee (Creek) woman whose previous residence was destroyed by wildfires in the Holdenville, Okla., area.

Salsman was there to document the Nation presenting her with the keys.

“I always point to it because right then and there, I kind of realized how meaningful this thing I wanted to do could actually be for the people,” Salsman said.

From that experience, Salsman derived a baseline goal for NNT.

“There was a real sense of community and that was always kind of my idea for the show; lets just show what we’re all about,” Salsman said.

Salsman believes that Native Americans are not often properly represented in his medium.

“There’s this disconnect that you don’t even count and you’re not even there,” Salsman said. “But in the Tulsa market on CW every Saturday at 1 p.m., Native Americans definitely exist and they’re thriving and doing different things.”

The show has also thrived during his tenure.

“We’ve taken the show from standard def to high def,” Salsman said. “Now we’re shooting with DSLR cameras. We were in front of a green screen using CG graphics and now that next progression is that we’ve completed our own live set studio.”

Salsman feels he has also grown along with his resources and staff.

“I’ve gotten better too, as a storyteller, as a host, somebody that can edit,” Salsman said. “I’ve got way better staff.”

The rest of the NNT staff consists of Multimedia Specialist Tyler Roberds and Broadcast Specialist Jerrad Moore.

“It wouldn’t be as good as it is if I had anybody else,” Salsman said. “I think these guys are the appointed guys to be here at this appointed time to help us to get it where I want it to go.”

Roberds does audio/visual work for Salsman while he anchors out in the field and Moore provides in-house technical support when the team puts the show together.

Salsman is grateful to have Roberds along with him on assignments.

“I’ve never had anybody come along for the ride with me that really knew what they were doing,” Salsman said. “That’s pushed me to do better too.”

Roberds has been with the department for seven years, starting as a webmaster then moving to graphic design and ultimately joining the NNT team after a discussion with MM Manager Christina Good Voice.

“I approached Christina and told her that I had job opportunities presented to me doing video mainly because after my film came out, it won a few awards locally.

“Whenever I approached Christina she said, ‘Maybe we can make a position like that available to you,’ ” Roberds said.

The quality advancement Salsman and Roberds have made has not gone unnoticed.

“NCAI, a national organization, wanted us to be the lead video production guys for the entire conference when it came here to Tulsa,” Salsman said. “They had no idea that it is just two people.”

Operating with a small team presents unique challenges but also affords some benefits.

“I think that has been a huge asset to me growing professionally because it forces you to cover everything,” Salsman said. “You have to be able to know, beyond a shadow of a doubt, everything that goes into this operation.”

Salsman also pointed out that larger production teams have to pass along information gathered in the field to those in the studio, which causes a rift between the subjects, hosts and audience.

“I think that’s why people love our show and why Indian people love our show; is that they know that I’m going to be there at these things taking part in them,” Salsman said. “We have a vested interest because well; we are Mvskoke.”

Salsman can be reached at: 918-732-7644.



Multimedia Specialist Tyler Roberds has moved on to a new opportunity since this article was published online.

Mvto, Tyler, from Mvskoke Media for your service!



Mvskoke Media Graphics grows with demand increase



MNN/Sterling Cosper
The Mvskoke Media Graphics team. (L to r) Printing Technician/Designer Daniel Roberts, Graphic Designer Tate DeLana, Printing Technician Jamie Rolland, Graphic Designer Mark Hill, Printing Technician Elizabeth Gray and Supervisor Jennifer Taryole.

New equipment, full staff to meet new customers, full workload

Sterling Cosper/*MNN Editor*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Mvskoke Media Graphics Supervisor Jennifer Taryole has been with MM for 14 years; when the department was known as Muscogee (Creek) Nation Communications and had a four person staff.

Taryole started as an administrative assistant and learned the essentials of her position out of the necessity of unceasing demand.

“They would get behind and swamped and so I would help them package stories, get articles, layout the paper; so I just kind of learned from there, everything the department did,” Taryole said.

This demand has only increased and Graphics continues to grow through equipment, staff and training in order to meet this ongoing challenge.

The team consists of Taryole, Printing Technicians Daniel Roberts, Jamie Rolland and Elizabeth Gray and Graphic Designers Tate DeLana, Mark Hill and Roberts who also helps with design.

“They are fully staffed right now…” MM Manager Christina Good Voice said. “They’ve never been fully staffed before.”

The department recently purchased a new cutter, which will help expedite work orders and is looking to acquire a full-service printer to enhance this turnaround time even further by making Graphics more efficient and self-sufficient.

“It’s about a $110,000 machine so we’re going to go to Council and try and get an appropriation,” Good Voice said.

The price tag on the new printer may seem sizeable to some, but Good Voice is confident that MM will see a quick turnaround on the investment.

“I don’t think it would take much time at all for it to pay for itself,” Good Voice said. “With just the cost we’re paying right now for outsourcing.”

The services Graphics offers include: posters, business cards, calendars, wedding invitations, outdoor banners, programs, custom decals, graduation announcements, brochures, custom logos and photo enhancements.

“About, 75 percent of the stuff we do comes internally from other departments. Stuff like designing logos and programs for all of the events we have here at the tribe,” Good Voice said.

When Good Voice started at MM, she was pleased to discover an external courtesy the department provides for Muscogee (Creek) citizens.

“A free service we provide for citizens is the memorial folders,” Good Voice said. “I think that is a really good service provided for citizens because that is one less thing they have to worry about during that time.”

“We’re getting new equipment, new printers, new machines, everything that is going to make this department grow even faster.”

- Mvskoke Media Graphics Supervisor Jennifer Taryole

Graphics also produces promotional material for events abroad, which also serves to promote the tribe.

“We do a lot of those for events like the Jim Thorpe Games and it puts our logo out there and people recognize that we are a Muscogee (Creek) Nation entity and we produce things like that,” Good Voice said.

Good Voice hopes the new printer will help further this recognition by giving Graphics the capability to brand their work as not only designed but also printed by MCN.

“It is a costly machine but that is going to let us provide a service that no other tribe has,” Good Voice said.

Taryole is confident in her team’s capability and that these ongoing improvements will help Graphics continue to improve with increasing demand.

“We’re getting new equipment, new printers, new machines, everything that is going to make this department grow even faster,” Taryole said.” We’re just here to help with design, printing, every different thing. It doesn’t matter if it’s a business card, brochure or poster; that’s what we’re here for.”

For more information about available services contact Taryole at: 918-732-7720.

Oklahoma included in states reporting enterovirus outbreak

MCNDH prepared to handle increase in patients

Jessica McBride/*Editorial Assistant*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Between the Ebola outbreak in western Africa and now an outbreak of enterovirus D68 in the U.S., some may think the zombie apocalypse must be next.

According to Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health Chief Nursing Officer Annette James, MCNDH is operating with a heightened awareness in response to the enterovirus outbreak and is trained and prepared to address the situation.

In a released statement from the Oklahoma State Department of Health Sept. 16, out of 24 specimens from Oklahoma submitted to the CDC labs for analysis, seven were positive for enterovirus.

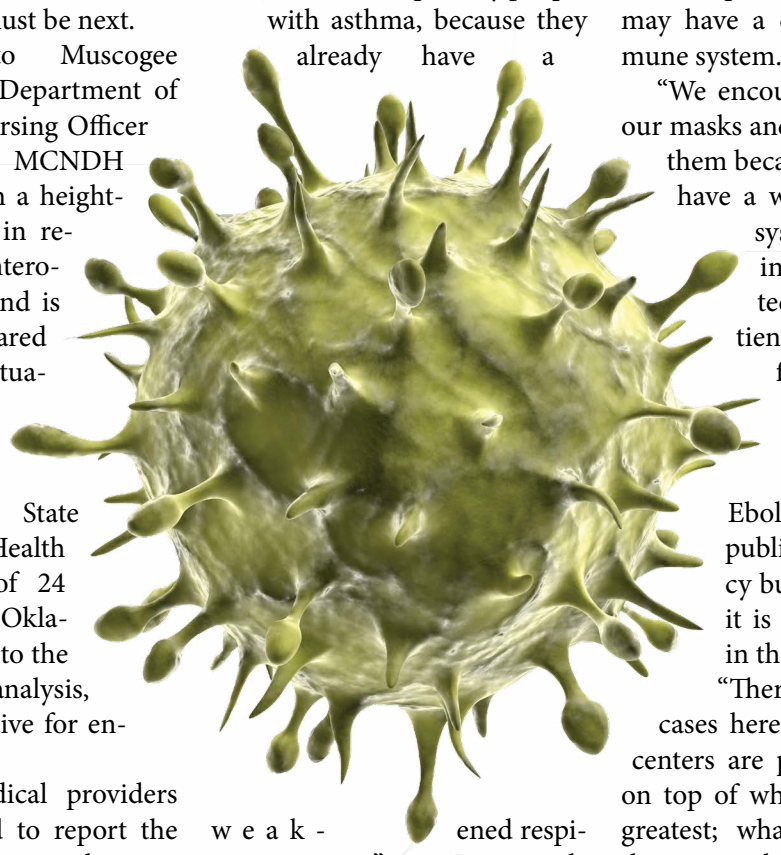
However, medical providers are not required to report the number of cases, so the true number of cases in Oklahoma is unknown.

In the statement, State Epidemiologist Dr. Kristy Bradley said that children less than 5-years-old and children with asthma are most at risk of being hospitalized from complications due to the virus.

"If a child develops a cold or a cough, parents and caregivers should just watch the child a little more closely to ensure the respiratory infection is running a normal course," Bradley said. "If wheezing or asthma-like symptoms develop, medical care should be accessed immediately."

James said that it is understandable that the virus is affecting mostly children.

"Most people as we grow older, we have been exposed to it and so we've built a resistance and so; it's affecting primarily the young ones that have not been exposed to it before and especially people with asthma, because they already have a weakened respiratory system," James said.



According to James, MCNDH has not yet seen a case of enterovirus in a patient.

James advised to keep children home if they have a fever or have a productive cough.

"Rule of thumb, if you're sick; stay home," James said.

The enterovirus is spread through respiratory secretions.

There is not a vaccine for enterovirus, however MCNDH recommends typical illness prevention measures including: washing hands frequently, covering coughs, not sharing utensils or products that will touch your face with others and frequently cleaning surfaces that may be contaminated.

MCNDH facilities are also equipped with masks, hand washing stations and antibacterial gel to prevent the spread of illness.

James said that masks are recommended at facilities and at home to protect individuals that may have a compromised immune system.

"We encourage them to use our masks and that just protects them because they evidently have a weakened immune system at that point in time and it protects the other patients that are there from being exposed to that too," James said.

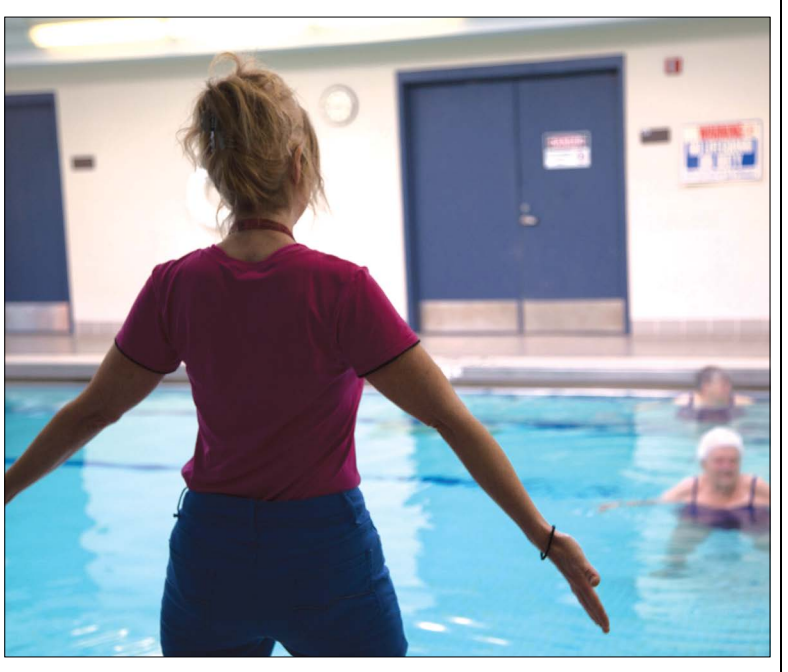
In regards to Ebola, James said it is public health emergency but does not believe it is cause for concern in this area.

"There has been no cases here… but our health centers are prepared. We stay on top of what's the latest and greatest; what's going on out there to make sure we are prepared if something comes up," James said.

James said that MCNDH is prepared to assist patients whether they come in for flu, enterovirus or Ebola.

"I think the main thing that we want people to know, is that we do have the providers, the medical providers, the nurses, all the staff that would need to respond to these types of situations… we have all of these protocols in place to manage those types of things," James said.

MCN Physical Rehabilitation Center to offer aquatic classes



MNN/Amanda Rutland

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Physical Rehabilitation Center Aquatics Instructor Cheryl Clay instructs her morning arthritis foundation class June 11.

Courses resume after pool repairs

Amanda Rutland/*Media Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. —The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Physical Rehabilitation Center is currently offering aquatics class at the facility pool in Okmulgee.

According to National Arthritis Foundation certified Aquatics Instructor Cheryl Clay, the pool is estimated to reopen by the end of July or early August.

Clay teaches three classes at the facility: arthritis foundation/low impact aerobics, intense water aerobics and lap swim. Clay has been teaching aquatics for the last 17 years.

The classes are designed to strengthen core muscles, improve balance and increase energy. Clay said people have lost weight even with the low impact aerobics class.

Clay explained that part of the arthritis class is giving one-on-one time to each participant to focus on their specific needs.

"I love helping people improve their life," Clay said.

Shirley Francis cares for a Muscogee (Creek) citizen who attends the classes to treat his stroke.

"You see so much improvement in people that go and do these exercises," Francis said.

Francis said that even the interaction with other participants has been beneficial.

"With Bill, there's been a whole lot of improvements from when he first started to what he's doing now," Francis said. "It has even helped him being around other people with his speech."

She has noticed improvement in other participants as well.

"This one man goes to the arthritis classes and his wife takes him," Francis said. "When he first started, they had to take him in and out on a lift and now he gets in and out of the pool. They have to help him get in and out but he doesn't have to use that lift."

According to Clay, the center started offering these classes around 14 years ago.

"This program has been going on since about 2000, I believe; but it was at a small scale. Now, it is very large and it a full time program," Clay said.

Participants do not need to know how to swim. All classes are open to the public. However, Clay said if you are taking them for physical therapy you have to have a doctor's note.

Francis believes that first-hand experience is the best way to gauge the classes' impact.

"You have to see the improvement to realize how much it's helped a lot of people. Cheryl is great. She'll do just about anything for anyone," Francis said.

The program costs $40 for 12 sessions and class size is limited. Classes are offered year round. Participants are asked to bring a swimsuit or t-shirt with shorts, towel and water shoes.

For mor information contact the MCN Department of Health at: 918-756-4333.

Aquatics Classes Schedule

Low Impact Aerobics

Monday	Wednesday	Friday
9-10 a.m.	9-10 a.m.	9-10 a.m.
12-1 p.m.	12-1 p.m.	12-1 p.m.

Intense Water Aerobics

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Friday
11 a.m. - 12 p.m.	—	11 a.m. - 12 p.m.	11 a.m. - 12 p.m.
12 - 1 p.m.	—	12 - 1 p.m.	12 - 1 p.m.
4 - 5 p.m.	4 - 5 p.m.	4 - 5 p.m.	4- 5 p.m.
5 - 6 p.m.	5 - 6 p.m.	5 - 6 p.m.	5 - 6 p.m.
6 - 7 p.m.	6 - 7 p.m.	6 - 7 p.m.	—

Lap Swim

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Friday
10 - 11 a.m.	—	10 - 11 a.m.	10 - 11 a.m.
1 - 3 p.m.	1 - 3 p.m.	1 - 3 p.m.	1 - 3 p.m.



OBITUARIES

BEN CONRAD



TULSA, Okla. — Ben Conrad was born March 16, 1953, in Tahlequah, Okla.

He was the son of Beatrice Carr Deere and adopted mother Daisy Jackson-Conrad. He passed from this life Aug. 24, 2014 in Tulsa at the age of 61.

Ben was raised in Del City and Tulsa, Okla.

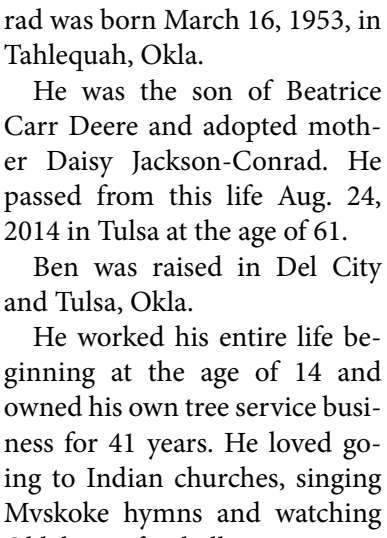
He worked his entire life beginning at the age of 14 and owned his own tree service business for 41 years. He loved going to Indian churches, singing Mvskoke hymns and watching Oklahoma football.

He was preceded in death by: both mothers; wife, Dorothy Conrad and brother, Richard Howard Barnett.

He is survived by: his twin brother, Marty Conrad of Lander, Wyo., sister, Brenda Howell of Glenpool, Okla., and brother, Daniel Wind of Henryetta, Okla.

The family would like to thank the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Social Services and Lighthorse Police Departments and the Tribal Driveways Program.

MITCHELL FISH



OKMULGEE, Okla. — Mitchell Fish went home to be with the Lord Aug. 13, 2014.

He was born July 29, 1939 to Jim Fish and Annie Thomas Fish Harjo who preceded him in death.

Mitchell was a very accomplished athlete. He received many awards in football, basketball and track. Mitchell was raised at Bacon's, Murrell Home in Muskogee, Okla.

He attended school there until his junior year and transferred to Wetumka High School where he later graduated.

Mitchell loved helping underprivileged children learn to play basketball and baseball.

Most of the children he coached were from single parent homes. Mitchell also played softball, golf and flag football.

He taught his grandsons to play chess and loved beating them. Mitchell had two softball teams, the Medicine Men and Medicine Women.

Mitchell love to hunt and fish and just be outside.

He liked to hunt wild onions with his boys, grandchildren and a few people that didn't have a 'secret hunting place.' He was a member of Glorieta Baptist and Central Baptist.

He was married to Lydia (Jimmie Ruth) Fish Aug. 23, 1960.

He is survived by: his wife, Jimmie Ruth of the home; sons, Mitchell Fish Jr., Terry Fish, Jimsey Fish all of Oklahoma City; 15 grandchildren, Matthew Fish, Terry Fish Jr., Joshua Fish all from Clearwater, Fla ., Dagan Ramirez, Molly Ramirez of El Reno, Okla., Natalie Fish of Topeka Kan., Charli Lynn Ahhaitty of Oklahoma City; Mitchell Fish Ill of Phoenix, Patrie Fish and Jeremy Fish of Farmington, N.M., Lydia Fish and Angel Fish of Oklahoma City, Jimsey Fish Jr., Michael Fish and Trever Fish from Mounds, Okla.; great-grandchildren, Gwen and Nevaeh Fish of Flordia and Elijah Fish of Phoenix; brother, Pete Fish of Pawhuska, Okla., and sister, Mary Proctor of Meeker, Okla.; brother-in-laws, Ronnie, Tommy, Jerry, Lyle Wells and Washie Proctor; sister-in-laws, Peggy Mundy and Dorothy Fish along with numerous nieces, nephew, family and friends.

Mitchell was preceded in death by: his parents and a brother James Fish.

He will be greatly missed but we know he is in heaven with the Lord because he told us that the Lord was waiting on him.

Thank you for the many, many prayers that were lifted up for our family during the loss of our loved one, Mitchell Fish; for the food and monetary gifts; to our church families, Central Baptist and Glorieta Baptist in Oklahoma City; to Pastors, Litkey Mcintosh and Leon Postoak; to Muscogee (Creek) Nation for all the help you provided to us with burial arrangements and to Kialegee Tribal Town.

Thank you hardly seems enough but we really do appreciate all everyone did to help us.

MVTO
The Family of Mitchell Fish

ANNA KING



HOLDENVILLE, Okla. — Anna Jacobs King, 89, passed away Aug. 25, 2014. She was born in Holdenville April 2, 1925. Her parents were Nancy Tea Jacobs and John A. Jacobs. She grew up near Little River, Okla., eight miles south of Holdenville and at the age of 13, attended and later graduated from Chilocco Indian Agricultural Boarding School.

Anna went on to graduate from Hillcrest Memorial Hospital Nursing School in Tulsa, Okla., in 1946. In 1949, she joined the U.S. Army Nurse Corp. as a second lieutenant and served as a nurse during the Korean War. It was at this time she married Capt. James F. King, III.

As a military couple, they lived in diverse places such as Taiwan, Saipan, Hawaii and Japan. Following her husband's death in 1969, she also lived in Guam and Panama. She was a world traveler and visited many places in Europe, Central and South America and the Pacific Islands.

Anna was an avid golfer and at one time, won the silver medal in the South Pacific Games – their version of the Olympics.

In 1992, she retired from nursing and moved from Panama back to the states, eventually coming back to her tribal community and residing in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Elderly Housing in Okmulgee, Okla.

She is preceded in death by: her parents; sisters, Irene Cleghorn, Becky Lena, Ella Jacobs and brother, Jack Jacobs.

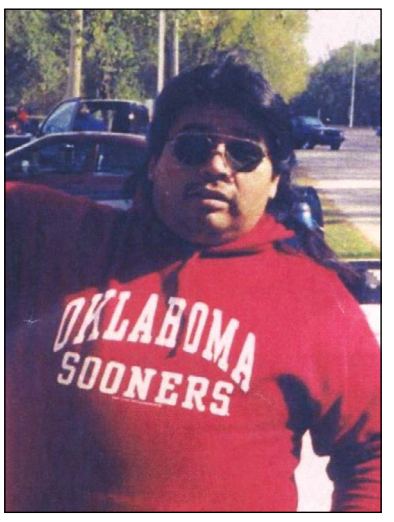
She is survived by: children, James F. King IV, Jeff King, Nancy King and Tara King, 11 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Funeral arrangements included a wake service Aug. 27 at Many Springs Baptist Church in Holdenville, followed by a reception at the Holdenville Community Center. There was a meal at the Many Springs Baptist Church, followed by the funeral service. There was also a gathering for a meal after the service. There was be no gravesite ceremony.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the American Indian College Fund: www.collegefund.org.

An online guestbook is available at: www.PhillipsFuneralService.com.

BUDDY LINDSEY



OKEMAH, Okla. — Buddy Ray Lindsey was born Aug. 8, 1965 in Wetumka, Okla., to Alex Lindsey and Amy Hill. He passed away July 17, 2014 in Okemah at the age of 48.

Buddy was a 1983 graduate of Sequoyah High School. He worked as tree trimmer and in landscaping for many years. He enjoyed playing ball and watching University of Oklahoma and Sequoyah football.

Buddy was a member of the Nuyaka Tribal Town and the Wind Clan. He enjoyed going to his ceremonial ground and others. He wanted to be there at times but his illness held him slowed him down.

He enjoyed playing stickball, softball and football.

His mom, family and all who knew him will miss him dearly.

He is preceded in death by: his father, Alex Lindsey; sister, Lucy Lindsey Tiger; brother, Thomas Watson; niece, Thomasena Watson; nephews, Donnie Lindsey, Anthony Watson, Timothy Tiger and Bobby Tiger; grandmothers, Melissa Wacoche, Susie Hill and Mary Hill and grandfathers, Buddy Lindsey and Jack Hill.

Survivors include: his mother, Amy Hill of Okemah; son, Hanson Lindsey of Okemah; daughters, Michelle Harrison of Sapulpa, Okla., Rachel Ornelas of Okemah and Sheena Marie of Tulsa, Okla.; brothers, Boone Watson of Tulsa, Rocky "Chebonnie" Lindsey of Sapulpa and Sandy Watson of Bartlesville, Okla.; sisters, Ann Lindsey of Sapulpa, Katherine Powell of Okemah, Delores Watson of Sapulpa, Susie Deo of Henryetta, Okla., Jackie Scott of Tecumseh, Okla., Amy Lou Hill of Okemah, Gee Bee Ratliff of Glenpool, Okla., Liza Lindsey of Okmulgee, Okla., Della Jackson of Okemah, Roberta Lindsey of Ada, Okla., and Tumissha Lindsey of Henryetta; aunt, Leola Hill of Cromwell, Okla.; great-aunt, Mandi Hill of Okemah; uncles, Danny Lindsey, Chapman Hill, Josie Hill, Jacob Hill and Billy Hill and several nieces and nephews.

Pallbearers are: Michael Flynn, Chris Flynn, Johnny Powell Jr., Adam Hill, Alex Bear Wacoche, Calvin Hill and Jeff Wacoche.

Honorary bearers are: Frank Lindsey, Taylor Yahola, Samuel Flynn, Rick Powell, Stephan Powell and Tristan Lindsey.

Funeral services for Buddy Ray Lindsey were held July 21 at the Nuyaka Church near Okemah. Interment will followed at the Harjo Cemetery. Services were also held at the Parks Brothers Funeral Home Chapel.

Services will be under the direction of Parks Brothers Funeral Home in Okemah and officiated by Rev. Kenneth Cooper and Rev. Randy Colbert.

The family of Buddy Ray Lindsey would like to thank the following people who supported our family during our loss: Parks Funeral Home; Bob and Robert who did a good job on Buddy; Nuyaka Church ladies and Nuyaka Ceremonial Ground women for cooking; the people who brought food and paper goods, called, sent flowers and thought of us in your prayers and were there for us; Muscogee (Creek) Nation: Social Services, Lighthorse Police Department, Tribal Driveways for digging the grave and special thanks to Rev. Kenneth Cooper, Randy Colbert, David Hill and all the preachers who came and gave good messages, Carney Roberts for cutting the grass and making a path for us and Bonnie Deere and Earnest Henneana for building his house.

- Mvto Amy Hill and family

STARR LONG



MUSKOGEE, Okla. — Starr Long, born April 30, 1966 was called to heaven Aug. 20, 2014. Starr, the youngest of six children, was born to Mulsey and Reverend Harry Long at the Okmulgee Hospital and passed away in Muskogee.

A daddy's girl to no end, Starr started school in San Diego, Calif., attended junior high school in Yuma, Ariz., and graduated from Carl Hayden High School in Phoenix.

As the youngest child, Starr stayed close to her parents, watching and caring for them with tender, loving care. She recently began caring for her sister, Beverly.

Starr had many dogs but, her favorite was her last, Hutcho. She was well loved and adored by many.

She had a loving and out-going personality that left a lasting impression on everyone she met.

She is survived by: one sister and three brothers, many nieces and nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews and a great-great-niece.

Starr, our loving sister and aunt will be greatly missed by all that she has left behind and they are very thankful to the Creator for the blessing of baby sister, Starr.

She is taking her place right beside her father, mother and oldest brother Larry.

Memorial Services were held Aug. 25 at the Salt Creek United Methodist Church near Holdenville with Rev. David Long officiating.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Jackson Funeral Home and Crematory in Okmulgee.

Friends may send their condolences to: www.jacksonfhandcrematory.com.

GLORIA KOVAC



HENRYETTA, Okla. — Gloria Faye Kovac, a resident of Henryetta, passed away Aug. 12, 2014 at the age of 65.

She was born Dec. 28, 1948 to Earl Dunham and Lou Farrill-Dunham in Okmulgee, Okla.

She was preceded in death by: her parents, Earl and Lou Dunham.

She is survived by: her husband of 24 years, John Kovac of the home; children, Herbert Kerr, Jason Layton and wife, Melinda, Jerry Layton, Jason Kovac, Christopher Kovac, Michael Kovac, Amanda McCormick, Jordan Miller and Josh Kovac; sister, Pam Polk and husband, Luther of Okmulgee; grandchildren, Cody and Skylar Kerr; Auston, Nicholas, Emalie Faye, Haley and Jadyn Nevaeh Layton plus six more grandchildren; three great-grandchildren and her dog, Pooh.

Graveside services were held Aug. 15, 2014 at the Okmulgee Cemetery with Pastor Richard Manning officiating.

Visitation was at the Jackson Funeral Home in Okmulgee.

Services are under the direction of the Jackson Funeral Home and Crematory in Okmulgee.

Friends may send their condolences to www.jacksonfhandcrematory.com.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Community and Tribal Events

Okmulgee JOM coordinator job posting

MCN JOM/*Media Release*

The Johnson O'Malley (JOM) coordinator provides various type of professional assistance in coordinating the JOM Program for the school district. Activities include but are not limited to: coordinating Indian Education Committee (IEC) meetings, planning student activities, purchasing school supplies, budget monitoring, conducting the annual needs assessment and writing the FY 2016 Application.

Principal Duties and Responsibilities:

- Must be able to coordinate activities between the school district and the IEC.
- Coordinate for the IEC, meeting space and notification of meetings.
- Must have the ability to provide require reports both written and oral to the IEC and program manager.
- Provide in-servicing training to school staff and IEC specifically in the area of their program goals and objectives
- Manage the program budget including: vouchers, purchase orders, requisitions, draw downs and reports
- Maintain an accurate student count, JOM student enrollment cards and student roster
- Assist the IEC in the development of the annual needs assessment and develop a plan of distribution and computation.
- Prepare the Annual Report and submit to the Nation
- Provide direct services to the students including but not limited to: tutoring, career counseling, facilitation of student club/association, teach Challenge Bowl curriculum
- Keep documentation of services provided to students: sign in sheets

Qualifications:

- To qualify for this position, your resume must reflect sufficient experience and/or education, to perform the duties of the position for which you are applying. Your resume is key in evaluating your experience, as they relate to this position. Therefore, we encourage you to be clear and specific when describing your work experience.
- Indian (Native American) preference or knowledge of Native American beliefs, values and culture.
- Prefer or willingness the knowledge of the JOM Program and the federal regulations that pertain to the program.
- Must have basic computer skills (Microsoft Office Word, Excel, Outlook or other email).
- Must have a valid driver's license and able to make school site visits.

The above statements are intended to describe the general nature and level of work being performed by people assigned to this job. They are not intended to be an exhaustive list of all responsibilities, duties and skills required of personnel so classified.

Resumes should be emailed to: OkmulgeeJOM@gmail.com.

Okmulgee JOM tutor job posting

MCN JOM/*Media Release*

The Johnson O'Malley (JOM) tutor provides various type of professional assistance in coordinating the JOM Program for the school district. Activities include but are not limited to: providing one-on-one and group tutoring, planning student activities, delivering school supplies and conducting the annual needs assessment.

Principal Duties and Responsibilities:

- Must be able to coordinate activities between the school district and the Indian Education Committee (IEC).
- Must have the ability to provide require reports both written and oral to the IEC and program manager.
- Must be able to maintain an accurate student count, JOM student enrollment cards and student roster.
- Must be able to assist the IEC in the development of the annual needs assessment and develop a plan of distribution and computation.
- Must be able to assist in the preparation of the annual report and submit to the Nation.
- Must be able to provide direct services to the students including but not limited to: tutoring, career counseling, facilitation of student club/association and teaching of the Challenge Bowl curriculum.
- Must be able to keep documentation of services provided to students: sign in sheets, etc.

Qualifications:

- To qualify for this position, your resume must reflect sufficient experience and/or education, to perform the duties of the position for which you are applying. Your resume is key in evaluating your experience, as they relate to this position. Therefore, we encourage you to be clear and specific when describing your work experience.
- Indian (Native American) preference or knowledge of Native American beliefs, values and culture.
- Knowledgeable of or willingness to learn the JOM Program and the federal regulations that pertain to the program.
- Must have basic computer skills (Microsoft Office Word, Excel, Outlook or other email).
- Must have a valid driver's license and able to make school site visits.
- Prefer a college level student in education or tribal services or of have a minimum of three years' experience in working with JOM programs, (ie. program coordinator, parent committee member, JOM staff).

The above statements are intended to describe the general nature and level of work being performed by people assigned to this job. They are not intended to be an exhaustive list of all responsibilities, duties and skills required of personnel so classified.

Resumes should be emailed to: OkmulgeeJOM@gmail.com.

Native art market set for Oct. 2

BEGGS, Okla. — A Native art and jewelry gift shop is set for 5 p.m., Oct. 2 at the Tulsa RV Ranch, 2538 HWY 75, Beggs, OK.

The shop will be open during the RV ranch open house. For more information contact Duck Creek Indian Community at: 918-267-3460.

Francis family reunion set for Oct. 4

EUFAULA, Okla. — A Francis family reunion is set for Oct. 4 from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Artussee Indian Baptist Church in Eufaula. Please bring a covered dish or desert to share as well as any new or used items to swap.

For more information contact Marissa at: 918-758-8857 or Marjorie at: 918-689-0339.

Dwight Mission Reunion set for Oct. 4

MARBLE CITY, Okla. — A reunion for the alumni of Dwight Mission is set for Oct. 4 at the mission dining room.

Registration will be from 8:30 - 10 a.m. and the program will begin at 10 a.m. Lunch is scheduled for 12 p.m. and please RSVP by Sept. 29. Bring your family, school picture and friends.

For more information, contact Levada Smith-Wildcat at: 918-773-3096.

Indian taco sale set for Oct. 4

TULSA, Okla. — Haikey Chapel has set an Indian taco sale for Oct. 4 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at 8515 E. 101 St., Tulsa, OK. Meals are $7 and include a drink.

Okemah Fall Harvest Festival set for Oct. 3-4

OKEMAH, Okla. — The Okemah (Creek) Indian Community has set the 8th annual Fall Harvest Festival for Oct. 3-4.

The event is open to the public and will include: tournaments, a traditional dance and feast, parade, carnival rides, exotic animal show clown/ventriloquist, face painting, live entertainment and inflatables for kids.

For more information contact OMNIC at: 918-623-9225.

Springtown UMC revival set for Oct. 5-7

COWETA, Okla. — Springtown United Methodist Church has set a revival for Oct. 5-7, with dinner at 5:30 p.m. and the revival starting at 7 p.m.

Paul Tecumseh invites all to come and join.

Fall revival set for Oct. 8-11

HENRYETTA, Okla. — Hickory Ground #1 Baptist Church in Henryetta has set a fall revival for Oct. 8-11 starting at 7 p.m. nightly.

MWLI academy set for Oct. 11

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A women's leadership academy is set for Oct. 11 from 7:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. at the College of the Muscogee Nation in Okmulgee.

To pre-register for $10, contact the Mvskoke Women's Leadership Initiative at: nmason@mcn-nsn.gov or bgolden@mcn-nsn.gov.

Registration will also be available on site.

Language Training set for Oct. 22 or 23

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) Nation Language Preservation Program has set a Train the Trainer event for Oct. 22 or 23 from 9 a.m.- 3 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Express, 2780 N. Wood Dr., Okmulgee, OK.

Lunch will be provided and the registration deadline is Oct. 3 at 5 p.m.

To RVSP call Judy Montiel at: 918-732-7724 or Minnie Proctor at: 918-732-7725.

Jones Academy Reunion set for Oct. 18

HARTSHORNE, Okla. — A Jones Academy all-school reunion is set for Oct. 18 starting at 12 p.m.

For more information contact Barney Ingram at: 918-378-7457.

Beauty pageant set for Jan. 17, 2015

GLENPOOL, Okla. — A Native beauty pageant is set for Jan. 17, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. during the Elite Home, Health, Fashion Expo, located at the Glenpool Conference Venue.

The expo will run Jan. 17-18, 2015.

To register as a contestant, vendor or sponsor contact Rosie at: rosieseliteexpos@gmail.com.

MCN SRO October schedule

Media Release

WETUMKA, Okla. — The following is the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Southern Regional Office schedule for October.

Oct. 1, 3, 6, 8, 10, 13, 15, 17, 20, 22, 24, 27, 31

Social Services
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Oct. 1

Citizenship Office
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Oct. 7, 14, 21, 28

Tax Commission
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Oct. 10, 24

WIC Program
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

For more information, contact the MCN SRO at: 405-452-1100.

MVTO

Our family would like to say MVTO to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation tribal leaders, citizens and employees who volunteered for or donated to the 40th Annual International Indian Treaty Council meeting held in Okemah, Okla., at the roundhouse.

It is not very often that many people come together to work (cutting wood, hauling water, pitching tents, etc.) at a campground setting/natural environment in the natural elements of life with no electricity or running water.

We have received many calls from all over the world thankful for such a spiritual gathering, thankful to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and people.

And again we are reminded: "At our ceremonial grounds we all begin striking flint to light our fire. It is not about who started the fire and not one person gets credit for starting the fire; it is that the fire was started"

– Phillip Deere.

Mvto to all from the Deere family. We are humbled and greatly appreciate all your support.

Tiger meets with U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sotomayor



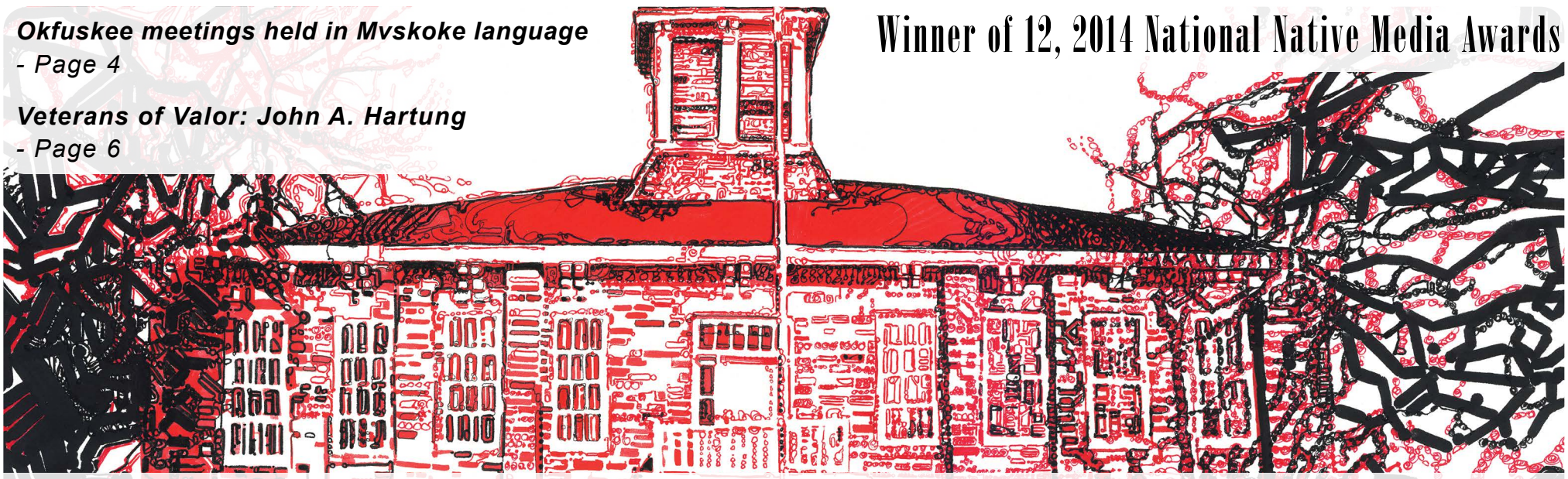
Submission

OKLAHOMA CITY — Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger, along with other tribal officials, met with U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Sonia Sotomayor Sept. 11 at the Oklahoma Judicial Center in Oklahoma City to discuss court decisions affecting tribal Nations; including the timeliness of these rulings and the decision process behind them.

Okfuskee meetings held in Mvskoke language
- Page 4

Veterans of Valor: John A. Hartung
- Page 6

Winner of 12, 2014 National Native Media Awards



Muscogee Nation News

Mvskoke Media production — The official tribal newspaper of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation

Oct. 15, 2014

Vol. 44, Issue 20
"Otowoskvrakko"
Big Chestnut Month

Tiger participates in U.S. Marshals Museum groundbreaking

Historic involvement of tribal police recognized

Sterling Cosper/*MNN Editor*
Neely Tsoodle/MCN Public Relations



MCN PR/Neely Tsoodle
Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger participated Sept. 24 in a groundbreaking ceremony for the U.S. Marshals Museum in Fort Smith.

FORT SMITH, Ark. — Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger participated Sept. 24 in a groundbreaking ceremony for the U.S. Marshals Museum in Fort Smith.

"As president of the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes of Oklahoma, we are immensely proud of the role played by tribal law enforcement, both in assisting the U.S. Marshals of the Western District of Arkansas in the second half of the 19th century and in the role they play in providing modern professional law enforcement today," said Tiger.

According to Tiger, the federal government failed to provide protection from outlaws who committed crimes in the FCT area until 1875 when Judge Isaac Parker was appointed to the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Arkansas.

"Tribal law enforcement officers were often cross deputized, as we have today as well, as deputy marshals as a measure to bring law and order to the Indian Territory," Tiger said.

The tribal police officers that were killed in the line of duty assisting U.S. Marshals will be memorialized in the museum's hall of honor.

"I am pleased that we have been invited and have accepted the opportunity to erect a monument on the museum's campus, honoring the heritage of law enforcement by the Five Civilized Tribes of Oklahoma," Tiger said.

U.S. Marshals Service Director Stacia Hylton commented on the relationship between Indian Country and the U.S. Marshals.

"We work with them and they are part of our task forces and we're very proud," Hylton said. "We do a lot of work to share our best practices and how it related to violent crime or crimes against children. It's really a priority of the Department of Justice…"

MCN FVPP advocates recognized at state capitol

Pope, Qualls pave the way for tribal advocates

Chelsie Rich/*Project Specialist*



MNN/Chelsie Rich
Muscogee (Creek) Nation Family Violence Prevention Program advocates Mitzi Pope and Tina Qualls accepted the Victim Service Advocate Award Oct. 2 during the seventh annual Excellence in Action Against Domestic Violence awards ceremony at the State Capitol Building in Oklahoma City.

OKLAHOMA CITY — Muscogee (Creek) Nation Family Violence Prevention Program advocates Mitzi Pope and Tina Qualls accepted the Victim Service Advocate Award Oct. 2 during the seventh annual Excellence in Action Against Domestic Violence awards ceremony at the State Capitol Building in Oklahoma City.

The event was held to increase awareness of domestic violence in the community and recognize those who go above and beyond to assist victims of domestic violence.

Pope and Qualls were the first pair to be nominated and receive the award.

"It was a surprise and I'm just glad we got it together because we work together as a team," Pope said.

Pope and Qualls were also the first tribal advocates to receive the award.

"As tribal advocates, a lot of times we don't get the same recognition that some state advocates do… but I feel like with this award; it speaks to tribal courts and state courts," Pope said.

Pope has worked for FVPP for three-and-a-half years and is the sexual assault advocate.

"We may not be a state certified program but we're doing the work and working hard. We care about our victims and we care about justice," Pope said.

Qualls has worked for FVPP for over four years and is the

Advocates ~ 2

Council House restoration funding approved during Council session

November Council session date changed

Jessica McBride/*Editorial Assistant*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A regular session of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council was held Sept. 27 at the MCN Mound Building in Okmulgee.

The Council addressed the following legislation:

- NCA 14-110 Amending MCN Code Annotated Title 11, Section 4-301, entitled "Minimum and Conditions" repealing certain laws regarding communities and profit sharing of gaming revenue. The amendment was returned as a veto Sept. 8, and overridden 11-4 with Reps. Darrell Proctor, Johnnie Greene, Mitch Jack and Adam Jones voting against it.
- NCA 14-111 Amending MCNCA Title 21, entitled "Gaming." The amendment was returned as a veto Sept. 8, and overridden 11-4 with Proctor, Greene, Jack and Jones voting against it.
- TR 14-133 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement between MCN and Hughes County for improvements to the Robinson High road project in Hughes County. Reps. Thomas Yahola and Deere sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.
- TR 14-135 Authorizing the MCN secretary of housing to execute home loan applications with Bank 2 in order to participate in the U.S. Housing and Urban Development Section 184 Indian Housing Loan Guarantee Program.

Council ~ 5

MvskokeMedia

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Please contact our office for deadline of submissions to be considered for inclusion. The **Muscogee Nation News** reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style and grammar. Receipt of submissions does not obligate The **Muscogee Nation News** in any regard.

The **Muscogee Nation News** is mailed from Stigler, Okla., to all enrolled citizens' households upon request and proof of citizenship. Inquiries should be directed to Mvskoke Media. Please include your tribal enrollment number or last four digits of your social security number accompanied by your date of birth with all correspondence.

To submit a change of address or a letter to the editor, call 918 - 732 - 7720 or send e-mail to: wmurphy@mcn-nsn.gov.

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Native American Journalist Association

Members of the Native American Journalists Association

Ocmulgee Monument hosts 23rd annual celebration



MNN/Amanda Rutland
Muscogee (Creek) citizens attended the 23rd annual Ocmulgee Indian Celebration Sept. 19-21 to share Mvskoke culture at the Ocmulgee National Monument in Macon, Ga.

Citizens share culture at National Monument

Amanda Rutland/*Media Specialist*

MACON, Ga. — The clamor of school children rang across the Ocmulgee National Monument as the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Honor Guard lined up for the presentation of the colors to open the 23rd annual Ocmulgee Indian Celebration Sept. 19-21 in Macon, Ga.

ONM Superintendent Jim David said that although the park hosts events throughout the year, OIC is the largest, drawing 15,000-20,000 people.

"We think it is very important to not only interpret the mounds here," David said. "But part of our goal is to make the visitor aware of modern Native culture."

ONM invited Muscogee (Creek) citizens as well as citizens from other tribes to share cultural activities including: stompdance and stickball demonstrations, storytelling and cane flute exhibitions and Mvskoke language classes.

Other offerings included a clay table to make pottery, wattle and daub replica houses and vender booths. Miss and Jr. Miss MCN were in attendance to meet with visitors and answer questions.

Muscogee (Creek) flute maker William Harjo has been coming to OIC for almost 18 years because he likes sharing his culture.

"It always makes me feel good to come back here; to stand on the same grounds as my ancestors did," Harjo said.

During the celebration, Mercer University Electronic Laboratory Technician Jeremy Baker scanned demonstrators with the intention of making 3-D prints of traditional Native dress to share with people who were unable to attend.

"What I plan to do with this information is set up an exhibit online for the museums, so they can show off to the people who cannot be here what they are missing," Baker said.

The Ocmulgee Park and Preserve Initiative had a booth to gather petition signatures for legislation to be put on U. S. Rep. Rob Bishop's docket.

The proposed expansion would open the Lamar spiral mound site to the public. At this time there is not a bridge to the site, rendering it inaccessible.

OPPI Board Member Susan Hanberry Martin said the legislation has been approved on the local and state level, but Congress still has to vote on the bill before the park can expand.

"When the park was first imagined in the 1920s, all of the land that is within the boundary expansion was supposed to be in the park, but they didn't have enough money to purchase the land. So, now we have some opportunities and some properties have been purchased," Martin said.

Martin urged anyone who is interested to call Bishop's office at: 202-225-0453.

Muscogee (Creek) artwork entered into museum collection

Johnson, Tiger speak through pieces

Chelsie Rich/*Project Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Seminole Nation Museum hosted the Joan Roberts Ligon Collections Endowment 2014 Annual Purchase Dedication honoring the works of Muscogee (Creek) artists Kenneth Johnson and Tony Tiger Sept. 14, at the Seminole Nation Museum in Wewoka, Okla.

Johnson and Tiger are two contemporary Native artists that have been creating art for many years.

Johnson is a metal smith who works with copper, silver, gold, platinum and palladium.

"I've been making jewelry for about 24 years," Johnson said.

Johnson is recognized for his combination of stamp work and engraving; often incorporating coins and bead set gemstones.

SNM purchased Johnson's signature copper gorget and detachable pin with a hand-braided chain.

"It is a solid copper gorget and it has a removable center pendant; and it features an Indian head penny coin in the center as the turtle shell," Johnson said.

Johnson likes to incorporate many meanings into his artwork.

"The turtle shell represents the rhythm of songs that are sung. The gorget features a sun symbol on each end of it; and it represents sundown and sunrise," Johnson said.

Johnson is Muscogee (Creek) and Seminole and lives in Santa Fe, N.M.



Submission
Muscogee (Creek) artists Tony Tiger (left) and Kenneth Johnson (right) pictured with Jr. Miss Indian Oklahoma Lindsey Harjo (center) at the Seminole Nation Museum 2014 Annual Purchase Dedication Sept. 14 in Wewoka, Okla.

SNM purchased Tiger's painting, 'The 21st Century Man.'

"I started the piece in 2010 and just worked on it the last couple of years," Tiger said. "It speaks about kind of how contemporary Native men or women look at themselves, so history plays an important part in how we view our past but also view our future."

The 24-inch by 48-inch acrylic on canvas panel features a Southeastern and woodland design along with elements of Seminole patchwork.

"The importance of helping the next generation find its way is important to me and so I think it's very satisfying to know that you're being recognized with a collection piece," Tiger said.

Tiger is a citizen of the Sac and Fox Nation of Oklahoma, and is also Muscogee (Creek) and Seminole.

Tiger is the director of art and assistant art professor at Bacone College and lives in Tahlequah, Okla.

Johnson and Tiger had the honor of being the first two artists to have their artwork entered into the collection.

"I like the fact they're collecting contemporary work," Johnson said. "My work speaks in symbols and it does address a variety of things. I've created many pieces of artwork for leaders. Theirs are representative and symbolic to talk about their leadership position."

Tiger shared his thoughts about the museum purchasing his work.

"They're looking to encourage young people. I think they're doing something well; they're moving their collection beyond a certain period of time and a certain period of subject matter," Tiger said.

Advocates

Continued from Page 1

victims advocate.

"We love our clients. This is not a job that we take lightly and is not a job that is just a regular job," Qualls said. "It is something we're passionate about; that we love and we do it for them."

FVPP Director and Native Alliance Against Violence President Shawn Partridge presented the award to Pope and Qualls.

"It's a great honor, not just for our program but I think tribal programs in general," Partridge said. "I see day after day the hard work that Mitzi and Tina put in so I know that it's very well deserved."

Hughes County Judge Gordon Allen, Blake Enos from the Hughes County Sheriffs Office along with Holdenville Chief of Police Keith Wardlow nominated Pope and Qualls for the award.

"When we first got down there, they had no services and were eager to focus on domestic and sexual violence," Qualls said. "Anything we could bring to the table, they were completely open for."

Pope and Quall hope to take their success from Hughes County to help more counties with their domestic and sexual violence issues.

For more information on the MCN Family Violence Prevention Program call: 918-732-7869.

MCN launches mobile language app

New program targeted toward cultural preservation

MCN PR/*Media Release*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — In a bold move to preserve and perpetuate the Muscogee (Creek) Nation language, the Nation has developed a mobile application or 'app' as another avenue for citizens to learn the language in the palms of their hands.

The Mvskoke – which is the traditional spelling of 'Muscogee' – language app is available at no cost in the Apple App store for iPhones and iPads and the Google Play Store for Android devices.

MCN Principal Chief George Tiger said the app is long overdue and will also serve as a valuable tool for Muscogee (Creek) citizens.

"I know people are looking forward to it," Tiger said. "It's just another resource that provides our citizens with an opportunity to not only learn the language of our elders but also another opportunity to make sure we maintain something so important as our language. Our elders used to say that when we lose our language we have the tendency to lose our culture."

Tips for uploading the apps are on the MCN website at: www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov/Pages/PressReleases/14Oct/mvskokelanguageapp.html.

Tribes unite to address domestic violence



MNN/Chelsie Rich
Tribal representatives throughout the State of Oklahoma gathered Oct. 2 at the state capitol for the first annual American Indian Domestic Violence Awareness Day of Unity.

Awareness event held at state capitol

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

OKLAHOMA CITY — According to Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt, 49 deaths were reported from domestic violence last year, which makes the State of Oklahoma third in the nation for domestic violence.

Because of this statistic, tribal leaders, representatives and advocates throughout the state showed up at the Oklahoma State Capitol Oct. 2 for the first annual American Indian Domestic Violence Awareness Day of Unity.

"We needed to have this day of unity to show that tribal members from all tribes can and go through domestic violence someway," Muscogee (Creek) Nation Family Violence Prevention Program Director Shawn Partridge said. "Non-tribal programs that deal with domestic violence have their own awareness day so we all felt that we should have ours also."

October is recognized as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month and a majority of the people in attendance wore the color purple to show their support.

Tribal representatives across Oklahoma worked together to have this day of unity.

"We need to have our own day," Partridge said. "It is appropriate that we have it in the state capitol because we rely on the decisions that are made here and the legislation that are passed."

Muscogee (Creek) citizen and Oklahoma State Rep. Dan Kirby was on hand to show support.

"Domestic violence is a serious issue in Oklahoma. It is more of a problem among Native American women. About 46 percent of Native American women are victims of domestic violence in our state.

"That is why it is so important for legislators, such as myself, to be educated and to be willing and able to help pass legislation for stricter laws to help protect the victims of domestic violence," Kirby said.

Kirby also read a proclamation from Gov. Mary Fallin recognizing Oct. 2 as American Indian Domestic Violence Awareness Day.

Sheila Harjo, first lady to Seminole Nation Principal Chief Leonard Harjo was among the people in attendance to show support and wanted to let any victims out there know that there is help.

Sheila Harjo has dealt with domestic violence in her life.

"First they need to know that it is not their fault that they are the victims," Sheila Harjo said. "There are people that can and will help you."

Partridge was pleased with the overall support and turnout from all the tribes that attended.

"This is a historical day," Partridge said. "We have gathered to address this issue and this is the result that we got. This was a great turnout to show support for our day of unity."

Social Services helps with loss of loved ones



Shutterstock

Department offers assistance for funeral expenses

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Social Services Department has numerous programs to help the citizens should certain situations arise. One of these situations is the loss of a loved one.

The department provides three different programs that can assist in situations when there is a death in the family. The programs are the Tribal Burial Program, Bureau of Indian Affairs Burial Assistance and Out of Creek Nation (OCN) Supplemental Burial.

Some citizens have life or burial insurance that will pay funeral costs, but some families do not have any type of insurance. Basic funeral services and everything associated with them can cost up to $6,000.

"Funerals do get expensive and we want these programs to help lessen the burden and the expenses," Social Services Director ShaRee Scott said.

These programs are available to help alleviate funeral expenses that face family members of the deceased.

SSD is working on agreements with funeral homes to further assist families during these tough times.

"We are working on agreements with the funeral homes so they can provide a full service," Scott said. "Full service is up to $5500."

These programs have requirements. For Tribal Burial, the deceased needs to be a Muscogee (Creek) citizen, have a Social Security card and provide a burial contract. Assistance up to $3,000 is available.

With the BIA Burial Assistance Program, the deceased can be a member of any federally recognized tribe while living within MCN boundaries at time of death. The assistance can be available based on the resources and need and can be paid up to $2,500.

Both programs have guidelines and payments are issued directly to the funeral home.

"You can use both programs if needed for funeral expenses," Scott said. "With the BIA program, if they have burial or life insurance that is over $2,500, they will not be eligible for the program since it only provides assistance up to that amount."

One program that is fairly new is the OCN Supplemental Burial. This program can provide assistance for a deceased, enrolled Muscogee (Creek) citizen who has resided outside MCN or any other tribal boundaries. Like the other two programs, payments are issued directly to the funeral home.

"There are families that live out of our jurisdiction and other tribal jurisdiction and they are not eligible for BIA assistance," Scott said. "This assistance will be provided in lieu of the BIA assistance. They will still have to meet BIA requirements such as the income and assistance can be provided up to $2,400."

For more information regarding burial assistance or other programs available through the MCN Social Services Department, contact: 918-549-2445.

Behavioral Health offers couples counseling



MNN/Amanda Rutland

Service aimed at enhancement of communication skills

Amanda Rutland/*Media Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health offers marital and couples counseling through MCN Behavioral Health Services.

According to BHS Manager Dr. Tamara Newcomb, couples counseling is not a service that many people know about.

"As far as I know, it has always been in existence as part of our routine offerings," Newcomb said.

Newcomb explained that after service referrals are made, they are triaged once a week; meaning the clinicians and psychiatrists discuss the referral screening form.

Appointments are then made based upon urgency.

"We have a wait list at some of our clinics. We don't have providers to see all the patients we have, so it is important that we don't just put everyone at the back of the wait list," Newcomb said.

Newcomb said that most of the couples in counseling were originally seen for another service.

"Typically, you will have someone in for individual [counseling], whether it is depression, anxiety, grief, substance abuse and issues will come up," Newcomb said. "A lot of times the therapist will bring in the spouse or partner."

Couples counseling is not limited to persons already receiving services. According to Ponca Tribe Clinical Psychologist and Muscogee (Creek) citizen Lahoma Schultz, most couples can benefit from counseling.

"Any couple or partnership where they are having issues in their relationship; they feel like they need some professional help could benefit," Schultz said.

Schultz listed some clues that could indicate a need for counseling including frequent arguing, especially over small things. Another clue is a couple's frequent focus on the negative aspects of their relationship.

Schultz said that couples counseling is not much different than individual counseling apart from a focus on communication.

"One of the main issues is communication," Schultz said. "We do a lot of teaching them to solve problems within their relationship."

Schultz explained that deeper issues could be resolved once open communication is established.

For more information, contact the MCN behavioral health clinic at: 918-224-9307.

UN hosts first indigenous peoples conference



Submission
Muscogee (Creek) Nation Family Violence Prevention Manager Shawn Partridge (left) and MCN Policy Analyst Brenda Golden (right) attend the U.N. World Conference of Indigenous Peoples Sept. 22-23 in New York City.

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The U.N. World Conference of Indigenous Peoples was held Sept. 22-23 in New York City.

Representatives from indigenous Nations around the world attended the conference to discuss the rights of Native people as well as land, resources and other issues.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Policy Analyst Brenda Golden attended the conference.

"There are no words to describe how incredible it was… there were so many indigenous people from all over the world," Golden said. "It was astounding really."

This was the first conference on indigenous populations held by the U.N.

During the conference, Golden gained networking advantages and raised awareness for land and resources issues, including the 1947 Act.

"I provided written testimony back in May.

"But I wasn't selected to give oral testimony at the U.N. this time. Nonetheless, we had the opportunity to discuss the issues with others and try to talk about ways to work together," Golden said.

Okfuskee meetings held in the Mvskoke language



MNN/Darren DeLaune

Okfuskee Indian Community members discuss business Sept. 8 during their monthly meeting.

Community strives to preserve tradition

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

OKFUSKEE, Okla. — The nerves were already building up as soon as I opened the door to my work vehicle and started toward my assignment for the evening.

'It is only a community meeting,' I said to myself. I have been to community meetings before and numerous times for this community over the last few years.

As soon as I walk in, I see about five people in the building; speaking a language that I have heard all of my life but can only speak bits and pieces of. It is our language, my Native language, Mvskoke.

One of the people talking was the Okfuskee Indian Community Chairperson Simmer Hicks.

"Hesci," (Hello) Simmer Hicks said as he held out his hand to shake mine. "Estonko?" (How are you?)

I talked to him briefly about the article I wanted to write on how the community conducts their meetings in Mvskoke. Simmer Hicks, along with the other members of the community had smiles on their faces.

He pointed to where I could sit. As I took my seat, questions start going through my mind.

Will I be able to understand anything? Why haven't I tried to immerse myself in my own language? How would I answer them if they were to ask me a question?

There was no time to think about it. People were showing up and the meeting was about to commence.

OIC has been a Muscogee (Creek) Nation chartered community since the 1980s. Simmer Hicks has been a part of the community since its inception and remembers that OIC meetings have always been conducted in the Mvskoke language.

"We have always been brought up to speak this way," Simmer Hicks said. "As we got older, we felt it should not change at all and that is why we will continue to speak in the Mvskoke language. When we were younger kids we didn't speak English."

Daria Hicks, an OIC community member for over 27 years, emphasized the importance of preserving the language.

"Our fluent speakers are getting older now and pretty soon, they will no longer be here," Daria Hicks said. "We need to pass on our language to the younger generations and they have to keep it alive for us."

It seemed to be business as usual as the members talked about what was going on in the community. Even the children seemed to understand the language.

"The children that are here do not speak fluently but they know what we are saying," Daria Hicks said. "Sometimes they will respond back to us in Mvskoke and that shows that they are listening to the language and want to learn."

Daria Hicks offered advice to help in ways to keep the language alive.

"We need to continue holding classes," Daria Hicks said. "If we can get our young ones to listen to the language, they can hold on to that and absorb a lot better than our older generation. The older ones still need to learn as much as they can."

The meeting ended at about 9 p.m. The only time I heard any English during the meeting was when one member gave a report, which did not last long.

After the meeting, English was spoken but a majority of the conversations were still in Mvskoke.

During the meeting, I could understand a few phrases and sentences. I remembered those phrases from when I heard them as a youth.

I was able to get my interviews with some members of OIC. Then it was time for me to leave and head home. Although I am not fluent in my own language, which is my own fault, I will never forget the sense of pride I felt when I left that building.

I kept thinking, '95 percent of that meeting was in my language.' It gave me a feeling of awe.

Our language is a thing of beauty. When you hear it, you will understand the significance.

If you do not believe me, go see for yourself.

They meet the first Monday of every month at 7 p.m. For more information, please contact the MCN Community Research and Development Department at: 918-732-7963.

Our tribe is in danger of losing our language. I can believe and tell myself that this community is going to fight and do everything possible to preserve it. OIC understands this with a sense of urgency and is doing what must be done.

Okfuske nvkaftvlkat Mvskoke punakv tvlkosen ponahoyet towes

Okfuske tokklukakot nak mvskoklvke emvye yekcen hericet komake tos

Darren DeLaune/*Nakohnayv*
Daria Hicks/*Translation*

OKFUSKEE, Okla. — Yafkosen vtotketv vcvtuthoyen mome cv hannet mv atvme vtutkvyat enake vmpvlhoyen. Vhoke hvwehcit vyepvhanvyat vmvkeric kv tat estomvhete komet vmekerricken mv fvccvn ayvyis.

Nvk vfaste etohkvketv vtekose to wisos makit emponayvyis. Orrolope vnvcomesulke etohkvlhokat vri tos.

Etohkvlketv cukofv resceyvyat este cvhkepet Mvskoke opunvkv etempuna hoyepen pohvyat momet punvkv pohit asvcvculvte tos. Momis nvcomosen kerrit os momis Mvskoke em punvkvcvnakets.

Hvmke estet Simmer Hicks, ohliketv ohlikv.

"Hesci," Simmer Hicks cvkicet vcvsekv hannet enke awiyat. "Estonko maket?"

Vcewosekun empunayvyat yv hvnyomet etohkvlket nvk estomet vfvstake to was Mvskoke punvkv vtekosen setem ponahoyet, cokv tvlemicepv hannet omis kicet emonvyakvyet momecepvs cvkicis vpvlwv afvckakis.

Estvn likv hannvyat vmvmenlen likvyat, Vpohkv hayetv vcokyicis.

En kerrakahete? Estomen vmpunvkv kerrvkate te? Naken vmpohakat nvk makit vyoposkahete?

Este yihcet vlicecetv orrepen nvketv vkerrices ko tan.

Heyv OIC vcewicosen fulle pvte tont 1980 vte kat. Vlecicvte vtekat Simmer Hicks vrepvte tos Mvskoke opunvkv mvtekosen setempuvahoye te mvts.

"Mvskoke empunvkv mvtekosen punahoyet espuculakvte tos," Simmer Hicks maket.

Daria Hicks OIC vpikv orrolope e sulke vret tat vcvyecetvt. Mvskoke empunvkv acvyecetv hertowe ta tos.

"Estecate Mvskoke opunvkv punahoyosat vculvkepen hofune mvhekun sumecepvres," Daria Hicks maket. "Punvkv tathopuetakuce taku ce min emvhayet Mvskoke opunvkv punhesayecvke ta tos."

Mv este vtekv nvk etvkvn vponicaket. Hopuetakue tos tis kerrakis omet omis.

"Yv hopuetakuce fullat estowasen kerra ket nomis naken makeyat kerrv ke tos," Daria Hicks makis. "Omahan apunahoyis ome tos."

Daria Hicks punvkv wikat estometis Mvskoke opunvkv hesaye ce yate.

"Etohkvlket emvhayepvke ta tos," Daria Hicks makis. "Lupuckosat min Mvskoke opunvkv mapahicaket omat enlvpken kerraket enyekcvke kut omes. Vculakat sen kuslvket. Vculakat kerrvkekut fullat, kerrvke peta ya tos."

Etohkvlkat hvsevkerkv ostvpakan vwahepat. Este hvtke opunvkv pona yen pohayat este hvmkoset mvt okerkue cet wikes.

Vwahepen, nvcomoset este hvtke punvkv punvyakis. Sulkos mahat Mvskoke opunvkv min esetem pu nahoyake munkis.

Nvk vfvstake monkon epuna hoyat enkerra nvcomosen enkerrakin opuna hoyakat cvmv neto svnke mv punvkv pohit mvc.

Mv OIC vtehkv enpunvyvhkit vyetv orepen mon vmpunvkv orici seko nomis vnemit vm mvh tetos. Mon omis yv vlvkepit vcafvcket yvepv yat.

Vkerricit, sulkos mahat vmpunvkv min espunvyaken tomis. Vkerrickv tates to memahet to mis.

Pumpunvkv tat semvnackuse tos mapohicet ce nomat kerret cv res.

Vmen honorece ko nomat. Ceme mit vhyet reshece pvs.

Hvsse hmke mvnte enhvteceskv kulvpaken yafkat mvn vlicecaket omes.

Mvskoke opunvkv punpunvkv sumkepv han tos. Yv etoh kvl kose fullat vyekecetvn vlicecet pun sumke kate komet esetempunahoyet fullvha nak tos.

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MCN starts Domestic Violence Awareness Month with training



MNN/Jessica McBride

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Human Resources Department kicked off Domestic Violence Awareness Month with a sexual harassment prevention training given Oct. 1 by retired employment attorney David Cover at the MCN Mound Building.

COUNCIL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



MNN/Jessica McBride

A regular session of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council was held Sept. 27 at the MCN Mound Building in Okmulgee, Okla. MCN Gaming Commissioner Buddy York (left) speaks to the Council regarding community gaming regulations.

Rep. Lucian Tiger sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

- TR 14-140 Authorizing the principal chief to execute an amended network participation agreement with United Healthcare Insurance Company on behalf of the MCN Department of Health. Rep. Dode Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.
- TR 14-141 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a strategic quality support system software agreement on behalf of MCNDH. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.
- TR 14-142 Authorizing the principal chief to execute an agreement between the MCN and Northeastern State University for health professional clinical rotations. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.
- TR 14-143 Authorizing the principal chief to execute an agreement for work on department property with the Oklahoma State Department of Transportation for the installation of a pedestrian bridge in Okfuskee County. Jack sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.
- TR 14-144 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a transfer agreement between MCN, the U.S. action through the Indian Health Service, Creek County Rural Water District #1, Okfuskee County Rural Water District #2 and Muskogee County Rural Water District #10. Proctor sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.
- TR 14-145 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a standard form of agreement between owner and architect for the restoration of the MCN Council House. Rep. Mark Randolph sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.
- TR 14-146 Authorizing the principal chief to apply for funding to complete an environmental assessment, hydraulic study and design a replacement bridge for the Old Highway 75 North bridge in Okmulgee County. Randolph sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.
- TR 14-147 Authorizing the principal chief to apply for funding to complete an environmental assessment, hydraulic study and design a replacement bridge for the Ash Road bridge in Okmulgee County. Randolph sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.
- TR 14-148 Authorizing the principal chief to renew a business lease with U.S. Cellular for the use of a cellular tower located on the MCN Eufaula Dormitory site. Proctor sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.
- TR 14-152 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a surface damage agreement on tribal property located in Okmulgee County. Jack sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.
- TR 14-153 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a network participation agreement with Community Care Life and Health Insurance Company on behalf of MCNDH. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.
- TR 14-154 Authorizing the principal chief to execute an electronic funds transfer agreement with Nestle Business Services for the MCN Women, Infants and Children Program. Tiger sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.
- TR 14-155 Approving an MCN 184 Pilot Program Policy for the MCN Department of Housing. Tiger sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.
- TR 14-156 Authorizing MCN to apply for a grant and authorizing a match to any funds received related to energy efficiency in the construction of the planned MCN Reintegration Facility in Henryetta, Okla. Reps. Frank Coachman and Randolph sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.
- TR 14-157 Authorizing the Gaming Operations Authority Board to execute a contract with IGT for the purchase of gaming machines. Rep. Robert Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.
- TR 14-158 Authorizing the execution of a letter of agreement to engage REDW LLC to conduct an audit of the Nation's fiscal year 2014 financial statements. Hufft sponsored the resolution, which was postponed indefinitely.
- TR 14-159 Approving an emergency housing services policy for the Housing Department. Proctor sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.
- NCA 14-124 Authorizing the expenditure of $1.2 million of Housing Department program income for down payments for up to 20 home acquisitions and for transaction fees associated with the purchase of up to 20 home acquisitions and authorizing the secretary of housing to commit to purchasing up to 20 homes under the Section 184 Indian Housing Loan Guarantee Program. Tiger sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- NCA 14-131 Appropriating $227,500 to be used for retaining Watts Partners for consulting and advisory services on behalf of MCN for one year. Jones sponsored the amendment, which passed 8-6 with Nichols, Randolph, Tiger, Barnett, Jack and Jennings voting against it.
- NCA 14-134 Authorizing the expenditure of $7,000 from the Institute of Museum and Library Services 2012 Basic Library Services Grant for the College of the Muscogee Nation. Rep. James Jennings sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- NCA 14-135 Authorizing $81,000 to the Oklahoma City Muscogee (Creek) Association. Reps. David Hill, Shirlene Ade and Tiger sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- NCA 14-136 Amending NCA 13-222, a law of the MCN authorizing a special appropriation to the Sapulpa Indian Community. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- NCA 14-137 Authorizing a $25,000 donation to the National Indian Education Association. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 13-1 with Deere voting against it.
- NCA 14-138 Authorizing a budget modification in excess of 20 percent for the MCN Tribal Transportation Program fiscal year 2010 federal funds. Proctor sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- NCA 14-139 Authorizing a budget modification in excess of 20 percent for the TTP fiscal year 2011 federal funds. Proctor sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- NCA 14-140 Authorizing a budget modification in excess of 20 percent for the MCN Cultural Center and Archives Department. Proctor sponsored the amendment, which passed 11-3 with Deere, Jennings and Jones voting against it.
- NCA 14-142 Authorizing $225,000 to fund expenses related to design services for the restoration of the Council House. Randolph sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- NCA 14-143 approving the principal chief's three-year plan to program tribal judgment funds for fiscal years 2014, 2015 and 2016. Tiger sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- NCA 14-144 Authorizing the expenditure of $35,000 in grant funds from the Victims of Crime Act, District Attorney's Council to the MCN Children and Family Services Program. Tiger sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- NCA 14-145 Appropriating $1,842 in matching funds towards a grant awarded to the Nation's CFSP. Tiger sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- NCA 14-146 Repealing Title 11, Chapter 4, entitled "Chartered Community Use of Tribal Lands and Buildings" and replacing it with a new Title 11, Chapter 4, entitled "Chartered Community Cooperative Use of Tribal Lands and Buildings." Barnett sponsored the amendment, which failed 2-12 with Beaver, Coachman, Deere, Hill, Jack, Jennings, Jones, Nichols, Proctor, Randolph, Tiger and Ade voting against it.
- NCA 14-147 Appropriating $25,000 to grant Thornton LLP to facilitate the forensic audit. Yahola sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- NCA 14-148 Authorizing a $5,000 donation for the 45th annual National Tribal Judicial and Court Clerks Conference. Yahola sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- NCA 14-149 Authorizing a $3,000 donation to a political candidate. Deere, Ade and Barnett sponsored the amendment, which failed to reach a required two-thirds vote for a political donation over $2,000, with Hill, Jack, Jennings, Nichols and Tiger voting against it.
- NCA 14-151 Authorizing a $2,000 donation to Bearden School. Jack sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- NCA 14-152 Authorizing a $2,500 donation to a political candidate. Ade sponsored the amendment, which passed 12-2 with Jennings and Tiger voting against it.
- NCA 14-153 Amending MCNCA Title 35, Chapter 8, Section 8-102 entitled "Policy." Jennings sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- NCA 14-154 Amending MCNCA Title 35, Chapter 13, Sections 13-103 and 13-106. Jennings sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- NCA 14-155 Amending NCA 13-260, a law of the MCN authorizing a special appropriation to Glenpool Creek Indian Community. Greene sponsored the amendment, which was postponed until the October session. The amendment would all the left over funds from NCA 13-260 in the amount of $91,707 to be rolled over to the 2015 fiscal year.
- NCA 14-156 Appropriating $35,870 additional funds to complete the production of 'The Dawes Commission' movie. Coachman sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- NCA 14-159 Amending MCNCA Title 16, Chapter 9, Tribal Employment Rights Office Act, Section 9-105 X and Section 9-108 D. Hufft sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

Hufft was absent.

The National Council voted to change the date of the November session to Nov. 22, to allow representatives to attend the second Mvskoke Etvlwv Festival at the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C.

The next National Council session is scheduled for Oct. 25.

Housing grant funds foreclosure class

Department educates on prevention, process

Jessica McBride/*Editorial Assistant*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Housing held a foreclosure prevention class Oct. 6 at the MCN Housing Building conference room in Okmulgee.

The class was one of four funded by a $3,500 grant from the Oklahoma Native Assets Coalition.

It focused on how mortgages, loss mitigation and the foreclosure process in Oklahoma works.

MCN Mortgage Down Payment Specialist LaDonna Northcross said that the class was geared toward those looking to purchase a home, dealing with a foreclosure or who just want an understanding of how a mortgage works.

"I think if you're a first time homebuyer or you're in a home now; I think it's good that you know your options and that's why I wanted to start the education for that… and it's for people that are maybe going through foreclosure and they don't understand all the mortgage terms out there," Northcross said.

Northcross said that she hopes that individuals would learn to work with their lender before the foreclosure is filed.



"I don't think they understand that they can call their lender, talk with their lender and maybe start working out a payment, a loan modification, something," Northcross said. "I tell them, the bank doesn't want your house."

Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma Foreclosure Advocacy Coordinator Laura Frossard taught the class.

Frossard explained that because Oklahoma is a judicial foreclosure state, the foreclosure process does not take place overnight.

"First of all, people get it confused with an eviction and they get served and they think they've got to pack up and move; and that's not true at all," Frossard said.

In a judicial foreclosure state, the mortgage company must request permission from the court in order to foreclose on, repossess and sell the property to repay the loan owed.

Frossard also gave tips for avoiding an error, protecting against scams and understanding what is typical during the mortgage loan term.

"I want to get people to understand how a mortgage works; what terms mean in the documents themselves," Frossard said.

The date of the next foreclosure prevention class has not been announced.

For more information on upcoming mortgage classes contact MCN Mortgage Down Payment Specialist LaDonna Northcross at: 918-549-2554.

Veterans of valor: John A. Hartung



MNN/Amanda Rutland

Pictured is Muscogee (Creek) veteran John Hartung surrounded by the medals he was awarded for his service in the U.S. Marine Corps.

Citizen was a WWII POW on Wake Island

Amanda Rutland/*Media Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — John Hartung also known as Arvel Hartung, was the first known Muscogee (Creek) citizen to become a prisoner of war. He was a recipient of the Purple Heart and a Bronze Star along with various other decorations.

According to Hartung's close friend and distant relative James Floyd, Hartung was adopted and grew up in Sapulpa, Okla.

"Him and a friend hitchhiked out to California. According to him, to seek fame and fortune," Floyd said.

While in California, Hartung enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps at the age of 19 and was part of the Pacific theater during World War II. On Aug. 8, 1941, he sailed with the 1st Marine Defense Battalion from Honolulu to Wake Island onboard the USS Regulus.

"[Hartung] said Wake Island is like three feet above sea level; so at nighttime water went to the bottom of his cot," Floyd said. "He said sand crabs would be all over him."

There were contractors present on the island with the 1st MDB to build an airfield.

Four months after arriving on the island, the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor in Hawaii at approximately 8:30 a.m. on Dec. 7, 1941.

The International Dateline separates Pearl Harbor and Wake Island. Four hours after the strike ended at Pearl Harbor, the Japanese bombed Wake Island.

The Japanese continued to bomb the island for the next two weeks. According to Floyd, the island was being evacuated.

"Planes and even a ship came, but then the last plane that came in immediately took off and nobody got to go," Floyd said.

Floyd said that during lulls in battle, the troops patched planes back together and worked to maintain the landing strip.

"Just, hopefully, that Americans would come and get them, but they didn't," Floyd said. "When it became apparent they were going to be captured by the Japanese, that they began burying food, weapons; anything they could."

The island was captured and the troops were taken prisoner Dec. 23, 1941.

Hartung told Floyd that when the prisoners were out of food, Hartung planned an escape to dig up some of the previously hidden supplies. Upon returning, the guards caught him with two containers of food under his arms.

"He said there are two Japanese, two rifles pointed right to his head, you know? So, he said, 'Man, this is it. They're going to kill me,' " Floyd said.

Hartung gave one food container to the guards and they allowed him to return to his cell.

"He said he got in there and it was a gallon of cherries, but that's how he got awarded the bronze star for bravery," Floyd said.

In 1942, Hartung was moved from Wake Island to Japan via a fuel ship.

"He said that was terrible," Floyd said. "They put them in the fuel tank and it was diesel fumes and all that. Didn't wash it out or anything; just forced them all in there."

After arriving at the Japanese prison camps, prisoners suffered forced labor, physical abuse, starvation and illness.

It is estimated that the POW fatality rate was 20-40 percent.

"[Hartung] said, 'I could look in their eyes when they gave up living and…they were never going to see death in my eyes,'" Floyd said.

During his captivity, Hartung was moved between various camps in Japan and China.

According to Floyd, Hartung and his fellow POWs made a radio to get information about the war. Different prisoners kept different pieces of the radio and they reassembled it at night.

"[Hartung] said he began to see a change in the Japanese. Some of them were deserting. Some of them were treating them better," Floyd said.

Eventually, all the Japanese deserted the camp and the prisoners were all alone.

"It wasn't so much that they were liberated, but the Japanese deserted. By then, they found out that the Americans had dropped the bomb, two bombs, and the war was about over," Floyd said.

The Japanese surrendered to the U.S. in August 1945.

"It wasn't until September that they got to those guys," Floyd said.

Hartung was put on a ship bound for San Francisco.

"He said the best thing he ever saw was the Golden Gate Bridge," Floyd said. "There were people there making a big deal."

His discharge was signed by Harry S. Truman April 23, 1946 and Hartung left the service as a corporal.

The clan chronicles: a tale of two clans

The Bird and Wind Clans

Amanda Rutland/*Media Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — This is the tale of two clans: Hotvlvlke (Wind Clan) and Fuswvlke (Bird Clan). Both are believed by some to be the most prestigious clans in Mvskoke culture.

Depending on which ceremonial ground is asked, both views are correct.

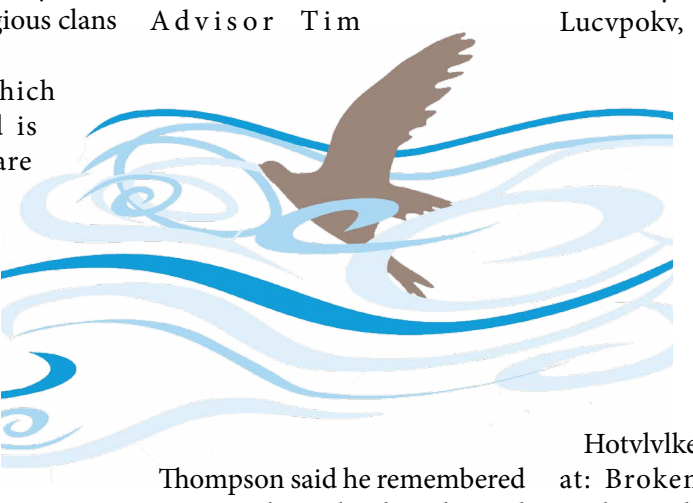
Arbeka Ceremonial Ground member and Indian rights activist Philip Deere recounted the Muscogee creation story during a speech at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Okla., in the 1970s.

According to Deere, somewhere in the west, the earth opened its mouth and three groups of people emerged. The people traveled farther west into the land of fog. There, the fog was so thick that it blocked the sun and the people could not see each other.

One day, the wind blew the fog away and the first animal the people saw became their clan. The first animal seen was the bear. Other animals were birds, deer and many others.

Deere went on to say that, because the wind blew away the fog, the Wind Clan held a high position in the tribe.

However, Muscogee (Creek) Nation Cultural Preservation Traditional Cultural Advisor Tim Thompson said he remembered a story about bird and wind having a contest to decide who was better.



In the end, bird won because he could fly above wind.

Ethnographer John Swanton recorded that the Wind Clan is said to bring pleasant weather for mankind.

These clans have similarities; both are white or peace clans. White clans are regarded as being diplomatic. These clans have held governing positions at a number of etvlwvs (towns).

Fuswvlke have been identified in the position of mekko (roughly king) at one time or another in the following etvlwvs: Hickory, Okfuskee, Tulmochussee and Hitichi.

Fuswvlke have also been henehv (roughly judge traditionally or second chief modernly) at: Tulsa Little River, Lucvpokv, Pakan Tallahassee, Tulmochussee, Thlopthlocco, Coweta and Okchai.

Where as Hotvlvlke had been mekko at: Weogufkee, Tuskegee, Cheyaha and Koweta.

Hotvlvlke have been henehv at: Broken Arrow, Nuyaka, Tulmochussee, Pakan Tallahassee, Vsselanvpe, Wewoka, Tuskegee, Quassarte, Tukvpvtce, Cusseta, Okmulgee and Tulsa.

Prominent Fuswvlke: MCN Supreme Court Justice and Hickory Ground Mekko George Thompson, William McIntosh and author David Lewis, Jr.

Prominent Hotvlvke: poet Alexander Posey, activist Phillip Deere, Alexander McGillivray and current MCN Principal Chief George Tiger.

Methodist church in Weleetka reopens doors



MNN/Darren DeLaune

Weleetka First United Methodist Church in Weleetka, Okla., has been renamed Weleetka Indian United Methodist under a new Methodist conference.

Church under same management, different conference

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

WELEETKA, Okla. — What was once the Weleetka First United Methodist Church has been renamed Weleetka Indian United Methodist.

The church was in danger of having its doors shut for good due to lack of membership.

"The church was down to three members," Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference Director of Interpretation and Programs Josephine Deere said. "There were talks of closing it because the church could not be kept up."

The church was originally under the Oklahoma Conference of the United Methodist Church. Deere said when she spoke with the members of the Oklahoma Conference, they told her that they did not want the doors to be shut so they pursued other avenues.

"We were asked if our conference (Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference) would be interested in the church," Deere said.

According to Deere the closest Indian Methodist church to Weleetka is near Okemah, Okla., so her and the other members of the OIMC felt it would be ideal to start a ministry in Weleetka.

On the first Sunday this past June, members of both the Oklahoma Conference and OIMC performed a closing service to transfer the keys to the members of the OIMC.

"We all worship the same God. Indian or not, we want you to worship with us."

- OIMC Director of Interpretation and Programs Josephine Deere

"We know it is tough because this is a lot of history that is stopping when they had their closing service," Deere said. "There was one member of the original church and she was present during the closing ceremony and we told her to please still attend church with us. Her membership is still good here."

Deere looks forward to having a new ministry in Weleetka. She said services started the first Sunday in July.

"There is a great ministry here in Weleetka," Deere said. "It has a great community and we want to welcome them into our church. This is a new church start for not only us, but for the community and the people that live here."

OIMC has also been out in the community to announce that the church is not closed.

"We had a one day vacation Bible school," Deere said. "We also had a gospel singing one evening where we had several people from the community show up."

Deere said that although their sign says 'Weleetka Indian United Methodist,' they are open to everyone, American Indian or not.

"We all worship the same God," Deere said. "Indian or not, we want you to worship with us."

For more information about the church contact Deere at: 405-632-2006.

Upcoming Halloween and fall activities around MCN

Amanda Rutland/*Media Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — This time of year is enjoyed by the young and young at heart. If you are looking for some festive Halloween and fall activities, here are some events within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation jurisdiction.

Checotah

Oct. 17-18, 24-25, 31: Halloween Haunted Hay Maze at the Lake Eufaula State Park near the old fountain stables on highway 150, from dark to 10 p.m. Admission is $2 per person.

Oct. 31: Downtown Halloween Celebration is a treat or treat event from 5:30-7:30 p.m. on Broadway and Gentry streets.

Coweta

Oct. 31: Community Trunk or Treat starting at 6:30. Event includes trick or treating, costume contest, parade and a movie. Event will be held at the West Cypress Green at 117 West Cypress Street.

Eufaula area

Oct. 17-18, 24-25, 31: Sasquatch Sightings Hayride at Arrowhead State Park Riding Stables in Canadian, Okla. from dark to 10 p.m. Admission is $5 per person and children under 5-years-old are free.

Holdenville

Oct. 31: Downtown Trick-or-Treat, 3-6 p.m. on Main Street.

Jack Sherry Real Estate is hosting a Children's Costume Contest at 5:30 p.m. in their parking lot on the corner of Main and Hinckley streets.

Muskogee

Oct. 17-18 and 24-25: Haunted History Trolley Tours held by the Three Rivers Museum. 5 p.m.

Oct. 25: Arrowhead Mall hosts Mall-o-Ween from 12-3 p.m. Children can enjoy candy and games. There will be a costume context at 2 p.m.

Oct. 25: Neighbors Building Neighborhoods Halloween carnival and movie night, from 4-8 p.m. Free food, games, candy and a movie will be provided. The event will be held at the corner of 2nd and Court streets.

The Castle of Muskogee is holding Haunted Castle and Halloween Festival from 6-10 p.m. every Friday and Saturday during the month of October. The Castle offers a haunted theme park complete with ghost stories by a campfire.

Okmulgee

Oct. 18: Okmulgee Harvest Spoon Chili Festival, 11 a.m.-7:30 p.m., downtown Okmulgee.

This event will include: 5k fun run, live bands, pie auction, car show, and tours of the historic downtown buildings and more. Children's activities include: inflatables, laser tag, train rides and a pumpkin painting booth.

Oct. 23: Oklahoma State University's Institute of Technology to hold Carnifall, 5:30-8:30 p.m. at Covelle Hall on campus.

Oct. 31: Scare on the Square, 4:30-6 p.m. Local businesses give out candy to trick-or-treaters.

Oct. 31: Stoneblade Restaurant will host a karaoke night and costume contest. Karaoke starts at 9 p.m., costume contest at 10 p.m. and judging will be at midnight.

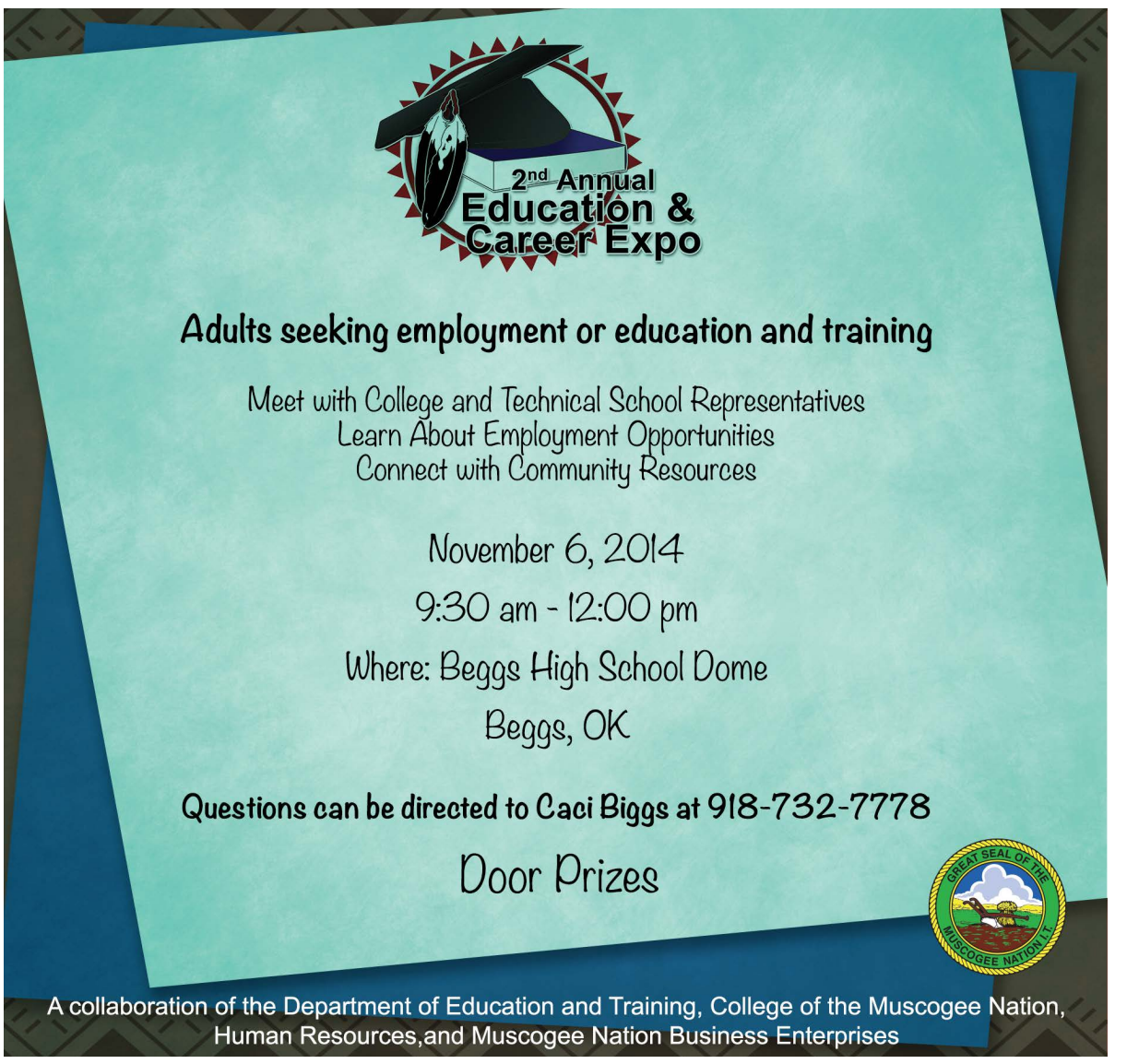
Tulsa

Oct. 26: The Henry Zarrow for Arts and Education Center hosts Ghouls on the Green from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. This free event allows children to make seasonally themed art.

Oct. 26: Boo Ha Ha in Brookside from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. This event begins with a pancake breakfast. Then, trick-or-treating starts at 12 p.m. Other activities include a costume contest and parade.

Oct. 27-31: Hallowzooeen 2014 at the Tulsa Zoo from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Event includes: treats, carnival games and a haunted train ride.







MVSKOKE HALL OF FAME

2014 INDUCTION GALA

10.18.2014 RIVER SPIRIT CASINO EVENT CENTER

Honoring *Excellency*

Raising funds for the Creek Nation Foundation, Inc. and the Muscogee Nation Festival

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10.18.2014
RIVER SPIRIT Casino
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MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION TOURISM & RECREATION 918.732.7992 TOURISM@MCN-NSN.GOV

COUNCIL OAK CEREMONY 2014 · 1836 · LOCV POKV

SATURDAY
2014 OCTOBER 25
2:00 PM
CREEK NATION COUNCIL OAK PARK

1750 S. Cheyenne Avenue | Tulsa, OK

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION TOURISM & RECREATION 918.732.7992 TOURISM@MCN-NSN.GOV

Following the Council Oak Ceremony,
EVERYONE is welcome to attend the activities @ the

TULSA CREEK INDIAN COMMUNITY

8611 S. Union Avenue | Tulsa, OK

3:30 PM STICKBALL
5:00 PM DINNER
STOMP DANCE to follow

ARTS & CRAFTS VENDORS
are welcome to set up free of charge @ TULSA CREEK INDAN COMMUNITY beginning at noon.

VENDORS must bring their own tables & chairs and space is available on a first come, first serve basis.

INDIAN *Fall Festival*

2014 NOV 1

ART • MUSIC • FOOD • SPORTS

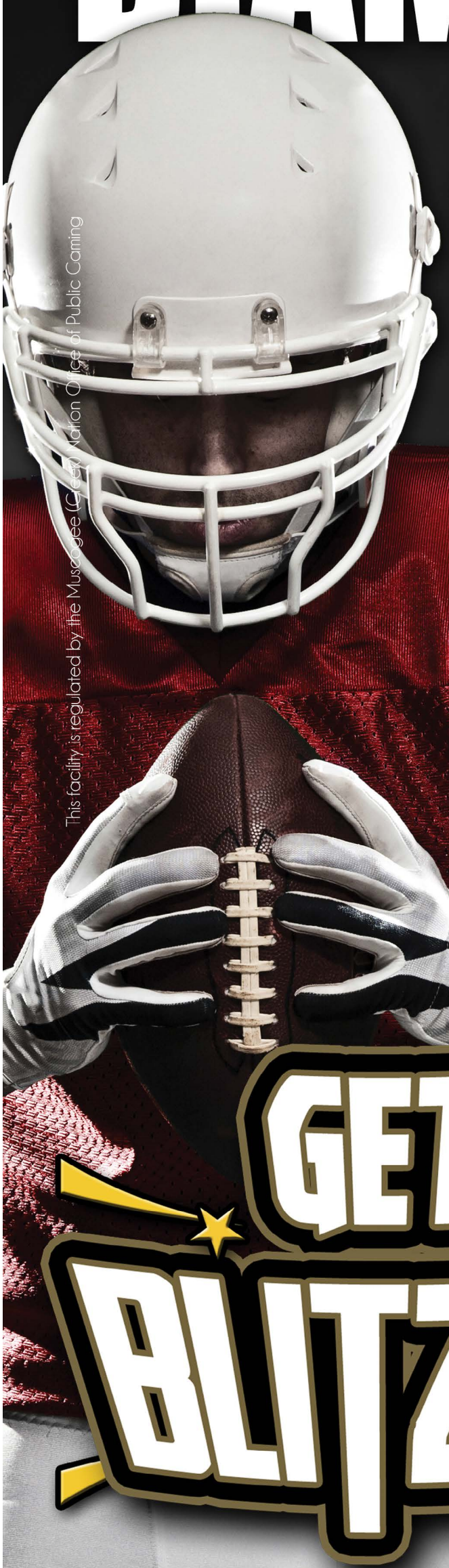
CLAUDE COX OMNIPLEX | OKMULGEE, OK | 10 AM - 6 PM

NATIVE MADE
ART FESTIVAL

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION TOURISM & RECREATION 918.732.7992 TOURISM@MCN-NSN.GOV

Rock Creek - Bingo - Table Games - Electronic Games

DIAMOND CLUB BLITZ



This facility is regulated by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Office of Public Gaming

Diamond Club Free Play Blitz
Sundays NOON - 6:00PM
Mondays 6:00PM - 10:00PM

Ten (10) $10 Free Play Hot Seat prize drawings every 15 minutes at the Main Casino or Travel Plaza. Players CAN win more than once per day!

POKER FOOTBALL SPLASH POTS

September 8th - December 22nd 2014.
From kickoff until the end during Monday Night football games

One (1) random poker table will get $100 splash at the end of every quarter of the designated Monday Night football game(s). All other tables splashed with $25.

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FREE WIFI

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Community and Tribal Events

Indian taco dinner set for Oct. 17-18

TULSA, Okla. — Tulsa Indian United Methodist Church has set an Indian Taco dinner for Oct. 17-18 from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. at TIUMC, 1901 N. College, Tulsa, OK, 74110.

Dinners are $7 and delivery is available Oct. 17 for orders of five or more.

To order call: 918-834-1956 or email: tulsaindianumc@outlook.com.

Jones Academy Reunion set for Oct. 18

HARTSHORNE, Okla. — A Jones Academy all-school reunion is set for Oct. 18 starting at 12 p.m.

For more information contact Barney Ingram at: 918-378-7457.

TCIC election set for Oct. 21

TULSA, Okla. — The Tulsa Creek Indian Community has set an election for the treasurer and secretary positions for Oct. 21 from 6-8 p.m.

For more information, contact Roman Powell at: 918-695-2781.

Language Training set for Oct. 22 or 23

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) Nation Language Preservation Program has set a Train the Trainer event for Oct. 22 or 23 from 9 a.m.- 3 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Express, 2780 N. Wood Dr., Okmulgee, OK.

Lunch will be provided and the registration deadline is Oct. 3 at 5 p.m.

To RVSP call Judy Montiel at: 918-732-7724 or Minnie Proctor at: 918-732-7725.

Literary workshop set for Oct. 25 & Nov. 8

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The new Okmulgee Literary Council has set a free workshop to help volunteer tutors provide one-on-one assistance to adults seeking to improve their reading skills.

The two part training will be held Oct. 25 and Nov. 8 from 9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Okmulgee Public Library with a brief orientation Oct. 18 at 9:30 a.m.

For more information or to register contact: 918-756-1448.

National day of prayer set for Nov. 1

HARTSHORNE, Okla. — The Inter-Tribal Prayer Network has set the inaugural National Day of Prayer for Nov. 1 from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Jones Academy in Hartshorne.

Attorney position open with MCN GOAB

MCN GOAB/*Job Posting*

TULSA, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Gaming Operations Authority Board in Tulsa is seeking an experienced attorney to provide legal counsel on a contractual basis for a broad range of issues including, but not limited to: gaming, contracts and employment issues. The position requires 5-10 years experience in Indian gaming, tribal governmental law and federal Indian gaming law and regulations. Those interested should send their resume to goab@mcngoab.com.

Veterans ceremony set for Nov. 1

HOLDENVILLE, Okla. — A veterans honor event is set for Nov. 1 from 2-5 p.m. at Salt Creek United Methodist Church in Holdenville located seven miles west and two miles south from Wetumka or eight miles north and two miles east of Holdenville.

For more information contact Kim Brown at: 405-221-2000.

Education/career expo set for Nov. 6

BEGGS, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Education and Training has set the 2nd annual Education and Career Expo for Nov. 6 from 1-3 p.m. at the Beggs High School Dome.

For more information contact Caci Biggs at: 918-732-7778.

Native arts/crafts event set for Nov. 15

TULSA, Okla. — Tulsa Indian United Methodist Church has set a Native American arts and crafts event for Nov. 15 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at TIUMC, 1901 N. College, Tulsa, OK, 74110.

For more information call 918-834-1956 or email: tulsaindianumc@outlook.com.

Native Christmas market set for Dec. 6

GLENPOOL, Okla. — The 4th annual Native American Christmas Market is set for Dec. 6, from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. at the Glenpool Conference Center in Glenpool.

The vendor fee is $75. For more information contact Tricia Alexander at: 918-629-7187 or email: autumnstarcatering@gmail.com.

Native beauty pageant/talent show set for Jan. 30-31, 2015

GLENPOOL, Okla. — A Native beauty pageant is set for Jan. 30, 2015 and a Native talent show is set for Jan. 31, 2015 at the Glenpool Conference Center in Glenpool.

For more information visit: www.rosieeliteexpos.com or call: 918-857-6630.

A call for Mvskoke artists

Cultural Preservation/*Media Release*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Throughout the year, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Historic and Cultural Preservation Department provides traditional arts classes within the MCN in collaboration with MCN Chartered Communities to support our tribal members in maintaining these important tribal arts traditions within our families and communities.

Cultural Preservation is seeking all Muscogee (Creek) artists who are interested in being an instructor of traditional art workshops. We are looking for tribal member artisans in the following areas that can provide instruction in producing these important disciplines: Shell carving, pottery, moccasins, finger woven sashes, stompdance shellshakers, basket weaving and ballsticks/balls for stickball.

If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Ms. Odette Freeman at: 918-732-7639, or ofreeman@mcn-nsn.gov.

Mvto!

MCN Southern Regional Office October schedule

Media Release

WETUMKA, Okla. — The following is the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Southern Regional Office schedule for the remainder of October.

Oct. 15, 17, 20, 22, 24, 27, 31

Social Services
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Oct. 14, 21, 28

Tax Commission
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Oct. 24

WIC Program
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

For more information, contact the MCN SRO at: 405-452-1100.

MCN Senior Services sponsoring trip to Mvskoke Etvlwv Festival

MCN Senior Services/*Media Release*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Senior Services invites all Muscogee (Creek) elders over the age of 55 to register for the upcoming Mvskoke Etvlwv Festival Nov. 14-16 at the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C. Travel days will be Nov. 12-13 and Nov. 17-18.

The deadline to enter the random drawing for 20 available seats is Oct. 29 at 5 p.m. The drawing will take place Oct. 31 at 12 p.m. in the Tribal Conference Room and is open to the public.

To register, elders need to provide:

- A copy of their MCN citizenship card
- Verification of their age
- Provide name, roll and phone number and date of birth

Senior Service will pay for:

- Transportation by MCN coach bus
- Hotel accommodations
- Per diem

To register, email ccarson@mcn-nsn.gov or call: 918-732-7765.

MCN Senior Services Manager David Dunson














TULSA STATE FAIR
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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27TH, 2014
TULSA FAIRGROUNDS CENTRAL PARK LAWN
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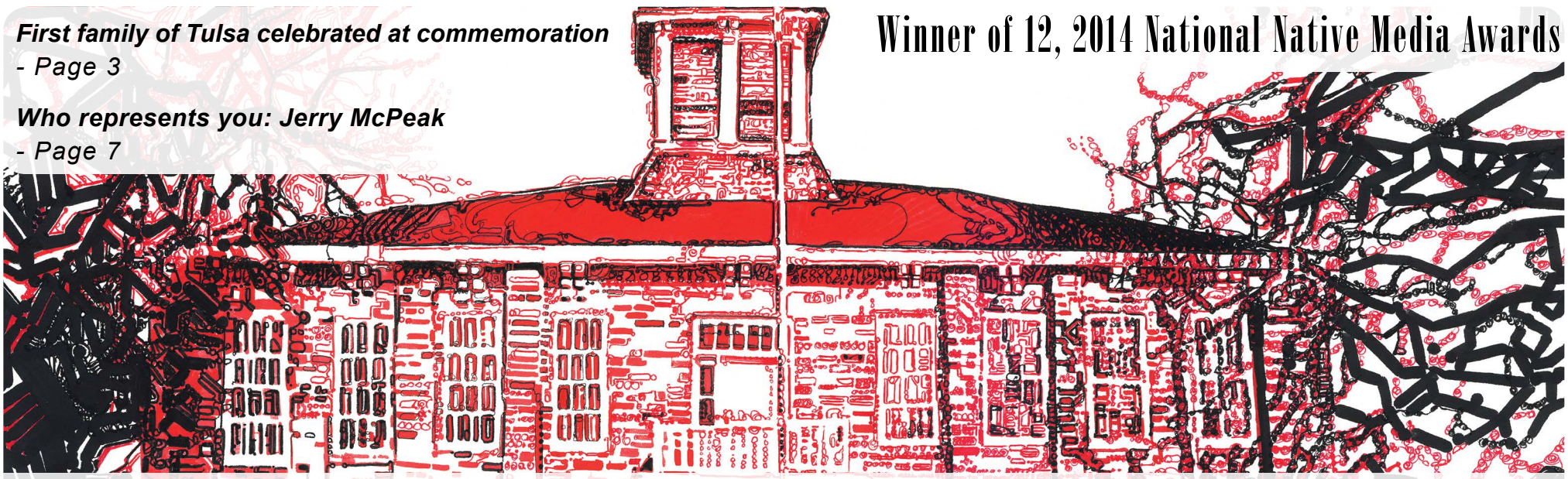




First family of Tulsa celebrated at commemoration
- Page 3

Who represents you: Jerry McPeak
- Page 7

Winner of 12, 2014 National Native Media Awards



Muscogee Nation News

Mvskoke Media production — The official tribal newspaper of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation

Nov. 1, 2014

Vol. 44, Issue 21

"Ehole"
Frost Month

Four inducted into 2014 Mvskoke Hall of Fame

Gala raises funds for festival, scholarships

Jessica McBride/*Editorial Assistant*



MNN/Amanda Rutland
The Muscogee (Creek) Nation inducted: William 'Billy' Mills, Peggy Berryhill, William Sampson and Eli Grayson into the Mvskoke Hall of Fame Oct. 18 during the HOF Gala at the River Spirit Event Center in Tulsa.

TULSA, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) Nation held a night of glitz and sophistication Oct. 18, at the River Spirit Casino Event Center in Tulsa, for the induction of four individuals into the Mvskoke Hall of Fame.

Contributions from the event and proceeds of the art auction go towards funding the MCN Festival and the MCN Higher Education Scholarship Foundation.

HESF provides funding for research and scholarships.

MCN Principal Chief George Tiger was master of ceremonies for the event.

The Mvskoke Hall of Fame was created to recognize the accomplishments of Muscogee (Creek) citizens.

"Tonight we recognize those that have distinguished themselves, not only as individuals but as Mvskokvlke," Tiger said. "Our elders used to say we should honor and uplift those that are worthy; and I believe tonight we've done that."

This year, special recognition was given to William 'Billy' Mills for his achievements as a U.S. Olympian and co-founder spokesperson for Running Strong for American Indian Youth.

Mills, who is Lakota, attended Haskell Indian School and the University of Kansas in Lawrence, Kan. He was recognized three times as a NCAA Division I All-American for cross-country.

Mills competed in the Olympics marathon and earned the gold medal in the 1964 games in Tokyo for the 10,000 meter run.

After college, Mills was a commissioned officer in the U.S. Marine Corps. He was recognized by President Barack Obama with the Presidential Citizens Medal in 2013 and presented with the NCAA Teddy Roosevelt Award in 2014.

Mills was unable to attend the ceremony. His award was accepted by his friend, MCN Education and Training Director Dr. Wayne Johnson.

Johnson went to school with Mills at HIS.

"Over the years that I've been

Mvskoke - 3

Tiger signs River Spirit construction permit

Margaritaville expansion moves forward

MCN PR/*Media Release*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger signed a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 404 permit Oct. 14, which enables construction to begin on the Margaritaville themed expansion of River Spirit Casino in Tulsa, Okla.

The Program Management Group has been working on the Phase II Expansion of RSC.

PMG Owner and Senior Environmental Program Manager Gaylon Pinc said obtaining this permit not only allows for construction of Margaritaville, but also for stabilization and other changes related to the Arkansas River.

"[We were] involved with getting the Corps of Engineers 404 permit to build the facility and to make the improvements within the Arkansas River near the casino," Pinc said.

Tiger said it has taken longer than he would have hoped to receive the permit due to mitigation concerns from those who opposed the expansion.

"Signing the 404 permit this afternoon has been a long, tedious time in terms of getting the permit, but it's something we had to go through we didn't foresee," Tiger said.

Tiger said he will be focusing on the future and proceeding with the project.

"All that's in the past, and now we can actually start the construction of the River Spirit hotel and the expansion of the casino, which is going to be Margaritaville," Tiger said.

The time taken to get the permit has changed the estimated completion date from late fall 2015 to a later date.

Choctaw Nation hosts quarterly ITC session

Chiefs, governor support Ocmulgee Monument expansion

Jessica McBride/*Editorial Assistant*



MNN/Jessica McBride
Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes President and Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger addresses attendees at the ITC meeting Oct. 10 at the Choctaw Casino Resort in Durant, Okla.

DURANT, Okla. — The Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes held a quarterly session Oct. 9-10, at the Choctaw Casino Resort in Durant.

ITC President and Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger gave updates on the River Spirit Casino expansion, the amended tobacco compact between the state and MCN signed Aug. 25 and the MCN Medical Center.

MCN acquired the hospital in August 2013.

"We knew that they were very close in closing the doors of that health facility and to close doors to a health facility like Okmulgee Memorial Hospital in a small community like Okmulgee would've been devastating," Tiger said.

Tiger said that MCN currently owes less than $200,000 of the $5 million debt assumed when the facility was acquired. He also stated that an MRI facility is under construction at MCNMC.

Tiger mentioned upcoming events such as the Mvskoke Hall of Fame Gala, Council Oak Celebration and Indian Fall Festival.

Representatives from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Indian Health Services and Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin's office gave brief updates from their prospective organizations.

ITC passed resolutions regarding the support of endeavors and recommendations to U.S. and Oklahoma government officials. All resolutions passed unanimously.

Resolution 14-25 supports Carolyn Conley Smith, a Cherokee Nation citizen, to serve as an alternate board member representing the Eastern Oklahoma Region for the Haskell University Board of Regents. Smith is a graduate of Haskell University and has a background in education and law.

Resolution 14-26 supports a waiver for uncompensated care for tribes, the Indian Health Service and urban Indian organizations in Oklahoma. The waivers authorize payments to I/T/U facilities by the state Medicaid program, which would not otherwise be reimbursed under Medicaid, Medicare or

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MvskokeMedia

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Members of the Native American Journalists Association

District 8 candidates face off in Okmulgee debate



MNN/Jessica McBride
The Okmulgee Chamber of Commerce hosted a debate for the Oklahoma District 8 Senate election Oct. 13 at the Okmulgee Community Center in Okmulgee.

Thompson, Dornan comment on working with MCN

Jessica McBride/*Editorial Assistant*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Okmulgee Chamber of Commerce hosted an Oklahoma State District 8 Senate debate Oct. 13 at the Okmulgee Community Center in Okmulgee.

Former 1240 AM KOKL personality Johnny Ray moderated the event.

Both Republican candidate Roger Thompson, and Democratic candidate and Muscogee (Creek) citizen Selina Jayne Dornan answered prepared questions and audience inquiries about where they stand on state issues.

Jobs

The candidates were asked to speak regarding their visions on economic development within District 8.

"My plan is in economic development, the folks at the Department of Commerce will know my first name within the first year I'm there," Thompson said.

Thompson spoke about creating partnerships with local schools such as Wes Watkins Technology Center in Wetumka, Okla., and Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology in Okmulgee. Thompson said he would also like to have a list of available industrial buildings in the area so that he can help recruit manufacturing businesses to provide jobs.

Dornan said that infrastructure and education were also important components for economic development in the area.

"We have to have a workforce before we can bring these manufacturing businesses in," Dornan said.

Dornan said that she would like to have town hall meetings to discuss options with residents.

Education

On the education front, candidates were questioned about funding cuts to education and testing issues.

"I really do believe our education system is underfunded. We have to find a way to provide funding for our educational system," Dornan said.

Dornan said that providing the best education for children starts with teachers, and that she would like to raise teachers' pay.

"I'm not saying that we want to increase taxes… but I think that there are things that we can look at," Dornan said.

Dornan said that an analysis needs to be done to see where money can be pulled to provide higher pay for teachers. She said that Oklahoma students need to be able to compete on the national level.

Thompson said that the education system needs to be 'depoliticized.'

"I believe the educators must be involved in writing our curriculum," Thompson said.

Thompson also suggested that involving the business community in the education system would help teach students skills they could use in a career.

Tribal Entities

District 8 encompasses a large rural area, including Okmulgee County, and portions of Okfuskee, Muskogee and McIntosh Counties. This is also a large portion of Muscogee (Creek) Nation jurisdiction.

Candidates were asked about their philosophy on working with tribal entities in the area.

Dornan said that she has experience in working with tribal officials from serving on the MCN National Council, Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes and as mayor of Eufaula.

"I already know that whole process," Dornan said. "I need to understand what you need to do to talk with the different entities."

Thompson called working with MCN a privilege.

"So how do we work with Muscogee (Creek) Nation? We work as partners because we need partners like Muscogee (Creek) Nation to more forward," Thompson said. "We're not enemies. We're not aliens to one another. We're partners going in the same direction."

Thompson also spoke of his experience as the Okemah Indian Community Development secretary-treasurer.

Infrastructure

When it comes to infrastructure, candidates were alerted of problems that the City of Okmulgee has experienced with outdated water lines.

Thompson said that the area needed to look at fixing and replacing water lines.

"I think responsibility begins at the city level," Thompson said.

Thompson suggested that cities replace pipes as they could, and to seek help from state and other entities to help fund bigger projects.

Dornan stated that one of her first tasks as Eufaula mayor was fixing the wastewater plant.

"We took all the options and looked at what would be the best for Eufaula," Dornan said. "I think first and foremost, your leaders need to have a plan in place."

Dornan suggested looking at rearranging the ad valorem tax in order for cities and municipalities to receive some of the money to fund infrastructure projects.

Jails

Candidates were asked about addressing the overcrowding of jails.

"I just feel that we have to look at helping inmates trying to correct the problems before they happen," Dornan said. "I think personally it goes back to education."

Dornan suggested expanding programs to help offenders reenter the community.

Thompson said part of the problem with overcrowding stems from the protocol for processing inmates to go from the county jails to the Department of Corrections.

"The problem with the backlog in our county jails is basically due to the prison system being full," Thompson said.

Medicare

Candidates were asked about their stance on Medicare expansion for Oklahoma and potentially requesting Gov. Mary Fallin reconsider turning down the expansion.

"Healthcare is a major part of economic development. When we look at rural healthcare, folks we're in trouble and we're going to have to look at some form of Medicaid expansion within the State of Oklahoma," Thompson said.

Thompson stated he was concerned with how much it would cost, and did not trust that the federal government would come through in assisting. He stated that though he was not a proponent of the Affordable Care Act, because it is the law, the state needed to do what it could to help rural healthcare.

Dornan also showed support for Medicare expansion.

"It's not just individuals that are going to be affected by it; it's businesses, cities; it's all over the state," Dornan said.

For more information about Dornan's campaign visit: www.selinaforsenate.com.

For more information about Thompson's campaign visit: www.thompson4oksenate.com.

The general election for the Oklahoma State District 8 senate seat is Nov. 4.

ITC

Continued from Page 1

private health insurance coverage.

Resolution 14-27 supports the use of the American Community Survey to determine eligibility of Native Americans to receive need-based aid through the Indian Housing Block Grant. ACS is currently under review to be replaced as the source to gather information. ITC recommends an attempt to perfect ACS rather than create a new process.

Resolution 14-28 demands that R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company cease unfair trade practices that are discriminatory to ITC tribes. The resolution states that RJRT offers promotions to Oklahoma retailers that it does not offer to Native American retailers. The resolution also calls on Fallin to cease these practices.

Resolution 14-29 supports Oaks Rehab Health Center in securing funding to expand its existing residential treatment facility and to expand to full residential stand-alone facilities. The behavioral health, alcohol and substance abuse center is located in McAlester, Okla.

Resolution 14-30 supports the National Native American Boarding School Coalition and requests Congress to investigate the effects of the forcible removal of children, abuse and neglect resulting from the Boarding School Policy or Peace Policy between 1869 and the 1960s. ITC estimates that at least 100,000 Native American children were removed from their homes, most involuntarily.

Resolution 14-31 supports the U.S. National Park Services expansion of the Ocmulgee Nation Monument in Macon, Ga. If Congress approves the legislation, 2,100 acres would be added to the park as part of the historic landscape of the Muscogee (Creek) people.

Resolution 14-32 supports the Carlisle Project for restoration of the old farmhouse of the Carlisle Indian Industrial School and include it in the Carlisle School of Industry Heritage Center. The school was open from 1879-1918 and taught Native American students a mechanical trade or domestic skill and English. The resolution states that while there were negative aspects of the school, a heritage center will preserve the memory of and honor tribal members who attended.

The chiefs and governor reminded attendees about the Inter-Tribal National Day of Prayer Nov. 1 at the Jones Academy in Hartshorne, Okla. The event is hosted by the Inter-Tribal Prayer Network, and is expecting leaders from all 39 tribal Nations in Oklahoma to attend.

ITC issued a statement proclaiming the Inter-Tribal National Day of Prayer the first Saturday in November.

For more information about the Inter-Tribal Prayer Network, visit: www.inter-tribalprayernetwork.com.

The next ITC meeting will be hosted by MCN Jan. 8-9, 2015 at the Marriott Tulsa Hotel Southern Hills in Tulsa, Okla.

MCN Executive Branch addresses Barnett indictment

Barnett resigns, special election set

George Tiger/*MCN Principal Chief*

It is with much regret that I report to the Citizens of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation that Second Chief Roger Barnett has plead guilty to charges brought by the U.S. Attorney's Office, and has resigned today with the effective date of October 9, 2014. This administration allowed the legal and administrative process to take its course before making this statement to the citizens of our great Nation. I ask that you pray for him and his family during this difficult time. It is a time that our actions and words as a Nation shouldn't pierce the heart, but our actions and words be one of healing.

As I stated previously, the Nation will continue to exercise fiscal responsibility and adhere to all financial rules, policies, accounting principles, and the laws our Nation has adopted to protect the integrity of our tribal funds.

Second Chief Barnett's resignation creates a vacancy that will need to be filled. According to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Constitution at Article V §1.(c), " In the event of a vacancy of the Office of Second Chief, an election shall be held within sixty (60) days to fill the Office of the Second Chief unless it happens within the last six months of the term in which case the term would remain vacant until the next election." I have corresponded with the Election Board Office to start the process of calling a special election. As soon as the details are finalized I will relay the information to our citizens and issue a proclamation announcing the date.

The Nation has been challenged by this unfortunate situation; however, our strong communal values established by strong traditions and culture will allow us to endure. We are not just a corporate organization, but rather a family bound by our ties of our ancestors. As a Nation, we will persevere just as our forefathers did and continue to be stronger than ever.

WHEREAS, a General Election was held on November 5, 2011 to elect vacant seats of the National Council for the Palen-Kolvpohkaken (17th) Session, Office of the Second Chief, and Office of the Principal Chief; and

WHEREAS, Article V, Section 1 of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Constitution states that in the case of vacancy, whether by removal, death, or resignation of the Office of the Second Chief, that an election be held within 60 days to fill the Office of the Second Chief, unless it happens within the last six months of the term in which case the term would remain vacant until the next election; and

WHEREAS, on October 9, 2014, Office of the Second Chief was vacated by Roger Barnett with approximately 1 year and two months remaining when he was sworn in to take office as Second Chief of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation; and

WHEREAS, in order to comply with the clear intent of Article V, Section 1 of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Constitution, a Special Election should be held for Second Chief for a term through 2015; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Code Annotated Title 19 §9-102 et. seq. a Special Election is required to fill Office of the Second Chief, and in calling such an election, the Principal Chief shall issue a proclamation; and

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: in accordance with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Constitution and laws of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, I, Principal Chief George Tiger, call for a Special Election to fill the Office of the Second Chief vacancy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: in accordance with Muscogee (Creek) Nation Code Annotated, the following dates shall apply to the Special Election:

The Filing Period for the vacant seats shall be set for:

Monday, November 3, 2014,

Tuesday, November 4, 2014; and

Wednesday, November 5, 2014.

The Special Primary Election shall be held on December 13, 2014.

The Special General Election shall be held on January 10, 2015, if necessary.

All other necessary dates for voter registration, requests for absentee ballots, and protests shall be set by the Election Board.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: in accordance with Muscogee (Creek) Nation Code Annotated Title 19, §9-101 et seq., the Special Election shall be conducted under the provisions of Title 19 that are applicable to Primary and General Elections.

IN WITNESS WEREOF, I have hereto set my hand and seal on this _____ day of October, 2014.

George Tiger, Principal Chief
Muscogee (Creek) Nation

First family of Tulsa celebrated at commemoration



MNN/Darren DeLaune
Muscogee (Creek) Nation Investment Committee Chairman J.D. Colbert speaks to the crowd during the Perryman Family Cemetery Commemoration Oct. 18, in Tulsa, Okla.

Perrymans honored through ceremony

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

TULSA, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation and the Tulsa Historical Society gathered Oct. 18 for the Perryman Family Cemetery Commemoration at the historical site located at 32nd and Utica in Tulsa.

The Perrymans, who are considered Tulsa's first citizens, came to Indian Territory from Alabama in the 1830's, long before the forced removal in what is known as the 'Trail of Tears.'

"We are so pleased about today," THS Executive Director Michelle Place said. "This is a day that we honor Tulsa's first family. A lot of the ones who passed on and are in this cemetery have fought for our country and have had a cultural significance for Tulsa."

A $10,000 matching grant from the Daughters of the American Revolution and THS has gone toward replacing the headstones of several marked, unmarked and missing historical graves that were interred until the 1940's.

"We were able to get a matching grant that allowed us to get headstones for some of the unmarked graves in this cemetery," Place said.

Since the family cemetery was established, there have never been headstones for many notable Muscogee (Creek) citizens, including Legus Perryman (1838-1922). Perryman was MCN principal chief from 1887-1895.

"That is such an honor to have done for one of the chiefs of Creek Nation," Place said.

MCN Investment Committee Chairman J.D. Colbert was at the commemoration on behalf of the Nation. He is also one of the descendants of the Perryman family.

"It feels good that we are honoring the family in this way, with this commemoration," Colbert said. "This family had a very important role for how Tulsa came to be. This is long overdue to honor this family. More can be done to develop the awareness of what this family did."

The Perrymans owned a 60,000-acre ranch that stretched from the east bank of the Arkansas River to Broken Arrow, Okla., prior to its division into 160-acre allotments. The Perryman Cemetery, located on the allotment of George B. Perryman, is the last vestige of the expansive Perryman Ranch.

Mvskoke

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MNN/Amanda Rutland
Muscogee (Creek) citizen Eli Grayson was inducted Oct. 18 into the Mvskoke Hall of Fame.

friends with Billy… it's always been a great honor," Johnson said. "No other American has ever won the 10,000 meter run; only Billy. And what he's done and what he's accomplished… has just been tremendous."

William 'Sonny' Sampson Jr. was recognized posthumously for his work in the motion picture industry.

Sampson was a full-blood Muscogee (Creek) citizen who appeared in films such as 'One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest,' 'The Outlaw Josey Wales' and 'White Buffalo.'

Sampson was also an artist, and his work is exhibited at the Library of Congress, Amon Carter Museum and the Gilcrease Museum.



MNN/Amanda Rutland
Muscogee (Creek) citizen Peggy Berryhill was inducted Oct. 18 into the Mvskoke Hall of Fame.

Sampson's children Andra Freeman and Tim Sampson accepted the award on his behalf.

"He never said, 'do this, do that; be like me,' " Tim Sampson said. " 'Be the man that God created you to be.' "

Freeman said that everyone noticed when her father entered a room.

"Dad had a presence about him," Freeman said. "Even though he was 6'6", there was still something about him."

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Eli Grayson is a retired interior designer and homebuilder, and served as president of the California Muscogee (Creek) Association from 2005-2013.

Grayson worked with MCN to facilitate annual CMCA gatherings, which were attended by MCN officials.

Grayson thanked MCN and Tiger for the honor.

"Thank you Chief Tiger and thank you for this honor. I have to apologize for not being on the stage. I'm a cancer survivor and I literally just got out of the hospital," Grayson said. "I just want to say I really appreciate what the tribe has done what the tribe is doing currently."

He referred to the progress of MCN in a historical context.

"You guys just think about in 1832 from where we were when our ancestors were marching here by force to where we are today," Grayson said. "We can all look at each other and be proud. We have a lot of differences but it's our difference that make us complete and make us one people."

Grayson believes this unity has carried through to the present.

"What's been on my mind is to thank Chief Tiger for the way he handled this recent crisis that we went through," Grayson said. "The chief did a magnificent job in the way all that went down."

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Peggy Berryhill was recognized as the founder and president of Native Media Resource Center.

According to Berryhill's biography in the HOF program, she is the only Native American to work for National Public Radio as a producer. Berryhill is the current co-owner and operator of KGUA 88.3 in Gualala, Calif.

Berryhill said she was honored to be recognized by her tribe as a voice for Indian Country and to be able to open doors for future Native American journalists.

"Now the focus on my journalistic career has been to ensure the authentic voice of Native America was represented and heard," Berryhill said. "I think our voices are more critical then they have ever been."

Honorees received a Pendleton blanket and a Mvskoke Hall of Fame pendant.



MNN/Amanda Rutland
The children of Muscogee (Creek) citizen William 'Sonny' Sampson, Andra Freeman and Tim Sampson, accepted his posthumous induction into the Mvskoke Hall of Fame Oct. 18 during the HOF Gala at River Spirit Event Center in Tulsa, Okla.

AARP recognizes Oklahoma Indian elders at annual event



Submission

AARP Oklahoma Associate State Director of Community Outreach and Muscogee (Creek) citizen Mashell Sourjohn with 2014 Muscogee (Creek) AARP Oklahoma Indian Elder honorees Scott Roberts, Susie 'Sue' Morgan and Arthur K. James Oct. 7 at the sixth annual AARP Oklahoma Indian Elders Honors ceremony in Oklahoma City.

MCN represented at awards ceremony

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

OKLAHOMA CITY — More than 700 family members, friends, tribal leaders and honored guests from across the state attended the sixth annual AARP Oklahoma Indian Elder Honors ceremony Oct. 7 at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City.

The AARP Oklahoma Indian Elder Honors is the largest occasion of its kind, bringing all tribes from throughout Oklahoma together.

According to their website, "AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, with a membership of more than 37 million, that helps people turn their goals and dreams into real possibilities, strengthens communities and fights for the issues that matter most to families such as healthcare, employment security and retirement planning."

AARP Oklahoma State President Marjorie Lyons spoke about the organization's past and present award winners.

"Since its inception, we have been so blessed to recognize the extraordinary accomplishments of elders from all walks of life," Lyons said. "Some have led high profile lives and others have quietly passed on their gentle wisdom and culture. Collectively, this year's AARP Oklahoma Indian Elder Honorees represent what is best about Native American people in Oklahoma: love of family, dedication to culture and respect for all people."

This year's class of honorees marks 300 elders who have received the recognition from 30 Oklahoma tribal Nations since AARP began the program in 2009.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation and Alabama Quassarte and Thlopthlocco Tribal Towns were well represented at this year's awards. The honorees are Scott Roberts, Susie 'Sue' Morgan, Arthur James, Lucinda Lou Lewis Tiger, Sinah Manley Birdcreek and Elizabeth Trickey.

Morgan spoke about the honor that comes with her award.

"It feels wonderful being here with all the other honorees," Morgan said. "We have all done so much and to let that be recognized is great. Everything is for all the honorees this evening and to hear what they have done, I am surprised that I was one of them to be honored."

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Mashell Sourjohn, who is the AARP associate state director of community outreach, talked about how MCN was highlighted by the award recipients that evening.

"It makes me incredibly proud to see so many members from Creek Nation being honored tonight," Sourjohn said. "We always look forward to this night. It is truly about celebrating our elders and their accomplishments."

Sourjohn hopes next year will be just as big as this year's ceremony, if not bigger.

"There are a lot of elders who deserve this honor," Sourjohn said. "We want to show them how much they mean to all of us here at AARP."

Muscogee (Creek) citizens receive honor



MNN/Amanda Rutland

Coser, Langston among top Native Americans under 40

Chelsie Rich/*Project Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizens Andy Langston and Pete Coser, Jr. were named as recipients of the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development Native American 40 Under 40 award Oct. 8 at the Potawatomi Hotel and Casino in Milwaukee, Wis.

The award recognizes 40 emerging American Indian leaders from across Indian Country who have demonstrated leadership, initiative, dedication and made significant contributions in business and in their community.

Langston, originally from Jenks, graduated from Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Okla., with his Bachelor of Arts and then later graduated from MidAmerican Nazarene University with a Master of Business Administration.

Langston worked for the MCN Department of Housing then went on to do work in Kansas, Colorado and Nebraska before returning back to Tulsa, Okla.

Langston secured a job working for the MCN Gaming Operations Authority Board, which governs all nine of the Nation's casinos, and after several positions and promotions with MCN gaming, is now the chief operations officer for MCN Casinos.

"My involvement on the business side for the tribe is probably what got them to select me for this award," Langston said. "I've dedicated that last four years of my life to trying to give back to my tribe and provide further large business entities to give back to fund their programs."

Langston plans to continue to work for the casinos and help give back to the tribe.

"It's been a honor to receive the award and it's also an honor to work for my tribe. I've invested interest in it," Langston said.

Coser earned a Bachelors of Art in political science from Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Okla., and then later earned a Master's Degree in human relations from the University of Oklahoma in Norman, Okla.

Coser is the program manager for the Kathryn M. Buder Center for American Indian Studies at Washington University in St. Louis, Mo.

"Everything from community outreach and admission work to university wide projects. Also work with master's level social work and public health Native students," Coser said. "We've been able to connect with tribal colleges and universities including institutions with high Native populations."

Coser helps institutions with building relationships and training faculty and the administration to initiate a curriculum that helps financial literacy in educational institutions that serve under represented communities.

"The award itself recognizes business and leaders within Indian Country… I humbly accept it but I also recognize that I'm also a part of a bigger picture, which is work for the well being of our communities; our Indian people overall." Coser said.

Coser is a member of Fox Clan, Arbeka Talladega ceremonial grounds, Cussetah Tribal Town and is also Choctaw and Chickasaw.

Harjo inducted into Oklahoma Writers Hall of Fame



MNN/Gary Fife

Teresa Miller, Executive Director of the Oklahoma Writers Hall of Fame (left) and Muscogee (Creek) citizen Joy Harjo (right) during the HOF induction ceremony Oct. 8 at the Oklahoma State University—Tulsa campus.

Muscogee (Creek) citizen joins other Oklahoma literary leaders

Gary Fife/*Radio Specialist*

TULSA, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) writer, poet and musician Joy Harjo was formally inducted into the Oklahoma Writers Hall of Fame Oct. 8 by the Oklahoma Center for Poets and Writers during the HOF ceremony at the Oklahoma State University—Tulsa campus.

Upon receiving the honor, Harjo said many shared in the reward.

"I think of it not just being me but my family, people, our tribe. I feel like I'm not an emissary but sort of a messenger," Harjo said. "With my name being in there, it's for all of us."

Teresa Miller, Executive Director of the OSU Center called Harjo a voice with far-reaching impact.

"Joy Harjo is one of the most powerful voices to come out of Oklahoma. Her voice resonates far beyond Oklahoma borders and throughout the world, literally.

"I think she is the eloquent voice of Oklahoma, the eloquent spirit of Oklahoma. I think what she has done lifts all of us up," Miller said.

A committee of HOF members selects the new inductee. One of those members, Rilla Askew, felt Harjo's work had a tremendous impact when she read it.

"The first poem I read of hers knocked me out so much I literally fell back on the bed weeping. It has that power," Askew said. "I did not know her work. I discovered it in the Oklahoma Indian Markings issue of Nimrod magazine."

Askew further explained the experience.

"The first poem I read was called, 'Death Is A Woman.' I can't describe what it does, except to just say it speaks truth on a deep level that is so resonant that it just takes poetry or music to really experience it," Askew said.

Harjo was presented with a small key as a new member of the Oklahoma Writers Hall of Fame and welcomed into a 'new clan' by fellow member Michael Wallis.

During her acceptance speech, Harjo spoke of her artistic journey, inspiration and some of her roots.

"I didn't grow saying I wanted to be a poet," Harjo said. "Living in Tulsa, over near Admiral and 71st. I mean, how many poets did we know about?"

After delivering her son at the W.W. Hastings hospital in Tahlequah, Okla., Harjo declared the creative spirit began to assert itself.

"I remember walking and walking through that town wondering and that spirit starting to bother me; the creative spirit saying, 'you know, you got yourself into this mess. You didn't listen. But, you know, it's all part of the story, even these messes you get into,' " Harjo said.

She expanded on this insight.

"If you think about it, often the most interesting stories are often the most horrible messes and that's no reason to get into a horrible mess," Harjo said. "But, that creative spirit stayed with me and walked through town and said, 'OK, look where you are.' I knew I had to take care of it."

Along with the HOF key, Harjo was presented with the special Pendleton blanket 'Perpetual Blessing,' commissioned by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

Other notable Native American members of the Oklahoma Writers Hall of Fame include: Kiowa writer N. Scott Momady, Cherokee poet and writer, Robert Conley and in memoriam, Sequoyah.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE CREEK NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

FILED
2014 OCT 14 AM 9 41
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
DONNA BEAVER
COURT CLERK

Muscogee (Creek) Nation
Plaintiff,

vs.

Eighty Dollars and no/100 ($80.00),
Defendant.

Case No.: CV 2014-62

ORDER SETTING HEARING

NOW on this 10 day of October 2014 the Muscogee (Creek) Nation's Motion to Set Hearing comes before me, the undersigned Judge of the District Court. The Court, being fully advised in the premise, finds that the above-entitled action should be set for a Disposition Hearing.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the above-entitled action is set for on the 1st **of** December **2014 at** 1:30 **P.M.**

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that notice of the hearing shall be given to the parties as required by law.

JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT

Longacre excites crowd, in dress clothes



MNN/Darren DeLaune
Thomas 'Thunderkick' Longacre (left) stands beside Legacy Fighting Championship owner Mick Maynard (right) at the LFC 35 Sept. 26 at the Hard Rock Casino in Catoosa, Okla.

Creek fighter helps with event, fights

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

CATOOSA, Okla. — Loud music played through the speakers as both fighters made it to the ring to their song of choice. The atmosphere was loud and electric as the crowd shouted in approval or boos.

"Let's have a clean fight," Legacy 35 referee Kevin Nix said. "Touch gloves, back to your corners."

Both fighters go back to their corners with their fists up and ready to fight. "You ready?" Nix said. "You ready?" Both fighters nod their heads. "Let's fight!"

Another brand of mixed martial arts made a statement Sept. 26 during the Legacy Fighting Championship 35 at The Joint at the Hard Rock Casino in Catoosa.

Several local fighters appeared in the cage to make a name for themselves in the brutal but chess like sport.

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Thomas 'Thunderkick' Longacre was among the fighters, but he did not step foot in the ring to challenge an opponent. Longacre held a different type of title for the evening that a lot of people had not seen.

"This was something new for me," Longacre said. "I have been on one side of these matches as the fighter but this time I am on the business side making the fights."

He felt that being around fights has helped him prepare for the other side of the sport. He owns Thunderkick Fitness in Tulsa, Okla., so he sees many fighters come through his gym.

"Being around it my whole life, I felt has prepared me for this," Longacre said. "Being in this position helped me to establish myself, not only as a fighter but to help make fights for the fight card."

Longacre served as event coordinator/matchmaker for LFC 35. He had to set up and orchestrate the events including weigh-ins and getting the fighters matched up for fight night.

"I wanted exciting fights for this event. The fans need a good show," Longacre said. "These types of matchups are what keep people coming back."

Longacre knew he would have his hands full but was up for the new challenge.

"This is something new for me," Longacre said. "I cannot fight forever but I still want to be around it and this is what I like to do."

Andrea Maynard, who is considered by the mixed martial arts community as the 'First Lady of Legacy' was overjoyed with the Legacy Fighting Championship coming to the Hard Rock Casino.

"It was a good night for everyone in attendance," Maynard said. "There were a lot of great fights."

She is also excited about Longacre working with LFC and feels that he will be a good fit to the Legacy family.

"He came to us at our first show in Tulsa as a fighter," Maynard said. "For this show, he was the matchmaker; and from the fight card that night, you can tell that he done a great job and he worked very hard to deliver and to make it a great night."

Longacre feels that Tulsa is one of the best when it comes to having great fights. He believes that the event showed that.

"Tulsa is considered a fight city," Longacre said. "We have fights once or twice a month around here and people from other organizations are taking notice. We have the fighters here who can fight and will put on a great performance."

Longacre is still debating if he wants to continue fighting.

"After my last fight, I said that that would be the last one," Longacre said. "I have said that for the last three fights though. I help prepare the guys around here for fights so if there is an opportunity and it is a good choice for me, I might step in to fight again."



Tourism and Recreation holds fitness instructor training



MNN/Amanda Rutland
Native American Fitness Council co-founder John Blievernicht taught the Walking Strong Program Oct 9-10 at the Mvskoke Dome building in Okmulgee, Okla.

Native American Fitness Council shares walking program

Amanda Rutland/*Media Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tourism and Recreation Department invited the Native American Fitness Council Oct. 9-10 to present the Walking Strong Program at the Mvskoke Dome Building in Okmulgee.

NAFC designed the Walking Strong Program to teach trainers the basics of motion in order to enable them to work with elders and adults in their communities. WSP incorporates balance, agility and strength training into a walking program.

TR Recreation Manager Rojer Johnson said many Oklahoma based tribes attend NAFC trainings in Arizona and hosting events like these at the Dome allows for the same knowledge to be shared while making a shorter trip.

"Fitness and health promotion is a big thing that all tribes need right now," Johnson said. "That's one of the things I am on the battle front for."

NAFC co-founder John Blievernicht explained how WSP started.

"My background is training pro athletes," Blievernicht said. "We took the idea of function training for athletes; and we just toned it down a little bit and we're applying it to elders."

NAFC co-founder and Director of Instruction and Training Brian Laban taught this program at a senior center on the Hopi-Navajo reservation in Arizona. He shared a success story.

"One of them in a walker, she fell and lost her confidence. She didn't want to go out because she didn't want to fall again," Laban said. "When her family finally got her out, she did the program and she was able to get rid of her walker."

Johnson said he is asking people to take the first step towards a healthier life style.

"Basics of movement is just like going from couch potato to just start moving. That is the basic thing," Johnson said. "That is one of the most intricate pieces of the puzzle when dealing with Native American fitness."

TR manager committed to health, fitness education



MNN/Darren DeLaune
Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Tourism and Recreation Recreation Manager Rojer Johnson conducts his workout routine Oct. 16 at the Mvskoke Dome building on the Claude A. Cox Omniplex in Okmulgee, Okla.

Johnson sets example for citizens

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The music is cranked up, the doors are closed and the room full of iron awaits him. He is able to shut out the world for just a few hours of each day, and this is his happy place. His zone. It is what he does.

Healthy living and physical fitness is a way of life for Muscogee (Creek) citizen Rojer Johnson, and he works daily to spread the message and to get the Mvskoke people healthy, one citizen at a time.

Johnson is also the recreation manager for the MCN Department of Tourism and Recreation.

"You have to commit and give it your all," Johnson said. "You have to give 310 percent because 100 percent is not enough."

Johnson got into fitness when he was in high school and was sought by recruiters to play college baseball. Eventually, his love for baseball turned into a love for fitness.

"I wanted to lift weights to get better for baseball when I started getting recruited," Johnson said. "What happened is that I started becoming more addicted to lifting weights than baseball. Although I played baseball all four years of school, the weights took a different element and I started seeing all the positives that came from that."

Johnson discovered another fitness inspiration, and it wasn't in the weight room but in his living room – in the form of Saturday morning cartoons and the superheroes in those cartoons.

"You see Batman and Superman and how they looked," Johnson said. "Those guys feared no one."

Johnson said he loves to work out but it is not only working out for himself that pushes him; it is the love for sharing what he knows with the Native American community. He wants to be able to offer guidance to youth all the way up to the elders.

Johnson has been doing personal training for more than 10 years and has clients not only at the Mvskoke Dome building on the Claude A. Cox Omniplex in Okmulgee, but anywhere that he can be of help to anyone who is dedicated to getting healthy.

"I feel I can give guidance to a lot of people," he said. "A lot of people have questions about fitness and nutrition and where to start."

Like his clients, Johnson feels he is constantly learning how to improve in fitness and leading a healthy lifestyle. With his continuing education, Johnson believes that he can help the clients he has now along with those he may take on in the future.

He understands that each person has their own story that molds how they want to better their lives. He wants to do everything that he can to jumpstart that success.

"Every person is different," Johnson said. "So with different people comes different ways of fitness and healthy living. So we look into that to work out a good plan for them."

Currently, Johnson sees more than 10 clients a week at the Mvskoke Dome building, and that number continues to rise.

"I want more people to come in and take advantage of our facility," Johnson said.

Johnson recently returned from Beaverton, Ore., where he did a presentation at the Nike N7 Sports Summit.

"The trip was amazing," Johnson said. "Being out there about fitness, it was unreal."

Johnson gave a presentation on how to be able to do fitness with little or no equipment. Having done presentations before, he wanted to do something different at the Nike N7 Sports Summit.

He ditched the traditional PowerPoint presentation method and opted to use the people in the audience in the presentation to demonstrate the correct way to do a workout.

"It was my movement-based presentation," Johnson said. "I had people who did the demonstration to show the proper way of doing the exercises."

Johnson explained that some tribes are less fortunate than others but still have that drive to become healthy and bring fitness to the community.

"There are some tribes and the communities within the tribes that are not blessed like us with an exercise facility and great exercise equipment," Johnson said. "These tribes, however, still want to be active and still want to get healthy so I had my presentation and showed ways on how to exercise and still be active with no equipment."

He said it was great to know that he was able to share his fitness knowledge and tell other Natives from across Indian Country so they can take it back home and put it to work.

"They can bring back some thing positive to their community and be able to help better themselves and others," he said.

Johnson had one thing to say to anyone who wants a better and healthier lifestyle.

"If you need that push to get a healthier lifestyle and you want to start exercising, please, come talk to me," Johnson said. "We will go over what you want and what we can do to help you reach your goals."

For more information on personal training or the wellness center within the Mvskoke Dome building contact Johnson at: 918-732-7991 or rojerj@mcn-nsn.gov.

MCN programs target child well-being



Shutterstock

Understanding mental development in children

Amanda Rutland/*Media Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Mental health and wellness is a broad topic. Muscogee (Creek) Nation Behavioral Health Services has two programs focusing on children's mental health and development: Project LAUNCH and The Incredible Years Program.

PL Young Child Wellness Partner Erica Ridgley shared some information provided by the programs. PL places importance on the bond between a caregiver and child.

"The parent/child relationship is really important for building an infant and toddler's mental health and their social/emotional development and also for building attachment," Ridgley said. "All of that plays out throughout their whole lifespan."

According to Ridgley, children learn to develop persistence, cooperation, self-direction and curiosity through the parent/child relationship.

Ridgley shared information that can strengthen the bond between caregiver and child.

With infants, eye contact, touch and simply talking to the child is important.

"Say they are giving their baby a bath and they can talk to their baby about, 'now, I am pouring the water on you,' " Ridgley said. "Almost like you are a narrator or a sportscaster and you kind of just give the play-by-play."

An upbeat tone of voice is important and suggested singing.

As infants develop into toddlers, they become more independent and test the parental boundaries.

"Parents need to understand it is normal to kind of push the boundaries, test the limits a little bit," Ridgley said.

Although discipline and consequences maybe implemented; she reminds parents not to forget to maintain a positive bond.

"A lot of times the toddlers won't listen because there is not a balance," Ridgley said. "So, you have to make sure that you are spending quality, positive time and playing with your toddler in addition to when you are trying to implement consequences."

Caregivers of toddlers will most likely face fits from time to time. Ridgley said that toddlers are emotional because of their stage of brain development.

Ridgley explained that the brain develops from the center outward. At the center is the limbic system that regulates emotion and decision-making and is located in the prefrontal cortex at the front of the brain.

"So, the front part where your decision-making is the very last thing to develop which fully develops when you are 25-years-old," Ridgley said.

Ridgley said keeping that in mind might help parents weather emotional outbursts.

"Think of it from a biological standpoint. Not that your child wants to frustrate you or make you upset; they just don't know how to handle those emotions yet," Ridgley said.

She recommended helping the child calm down before correcting them.

"So, when they get upset or when you are trying to talk to them logically and tell them why you are implementing the consequence, they don't really hear it because they are in that emotional state," Ridgley said.

Ridgley suggested making them feel safe, giving them hugs or even teaching the child deep breathing techniques.

Ridgley said there is a difference between punishment and discipline.

"Discipline is going to be something that is more of a teachable moment, whereas a punishment does not have very many teachable moments," Ridgley said.

Ridgley talked about giving rewards for good behavior.

"You just want to make sure you are rewarding your child appropriately," Ridgley said. "You don't want to go over the top and be like, 'Oh, here I am going to reward you with 20 bucks because you made your bed.' "

She said rewards could be stickers, praise or playing a board game the child enjoys.

"You want to make sure the incentive is something that they are going to care about… It doesn't always have to be monetary. It doesn't have to be a physical thing," Ridgley said.

Ridgley said that whatever the reward, make sure the child understands the connection between expectation and why they are receiving it.

Also, caregivers should not have to give a reward every single time. The reward system is to reinforce and teach responsible behavior.

According to Ridgley, PL is open to children up to 8 years of age and TIYP is open to children up to 5 years of age. Both programs are available to all Native Americans.

"We focus on healthy emotional and social development age 0-8, that are Native American, but we also work with their parents or caregivers," Ridgley said.

Ridgley said that these programs are the first at MCN to include infants.

"I really like that we finally have something to do for parents of infants…Behavioral Health has not had in the past something for that age group. Now we do." Ridgley said.

For more information, call: 918-758-1930.

TANF subsidized employment program connects the dots

First participant to complete program

Jessica McBride/*Editorial Assistant*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Between unemployment, raising children and trying to pursue an education, Muscogee (Creek) citizen Cassandra Thompson was trying to make ends meet.

She applied for Muscogee (Creek) Nation Temporary Assistance for Needy Families support so that she could work to get herself into a better position for the future.

"Sometimes life doesn't always come like you would expect it to be," Thompson said.

While receiving TANF support, Thompson found a job with MCN Community Research and Development. Through a partnership with the Nation, TANF was able to place Thompson in the subsidized employment program.

The six-month program is 100 percent federally funded, and assists TANF participants with employment opportunities and job coaching to give them better footing to provide for their families in the future.

"The subsidized employment program is a hand up and not a hand out," TANF Career Development Coordinator Tolissa Autry said. "It's a hand up to help the participant to elevate to a point… where they become self-sufficient."

In order to be a part of the program, TANF participants must be job ready; which means they must have access to reliable transportation and childcare.

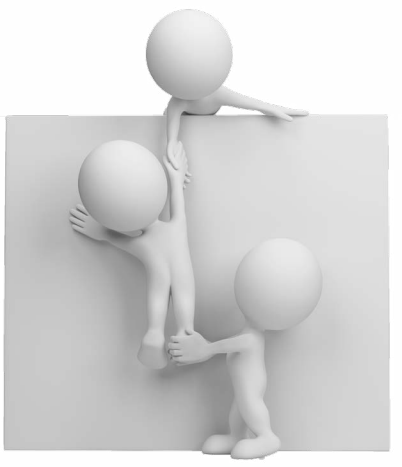
TANF completes an assessment with the participant in order to review their strengths, job interests and requirements they may need for jobs such as a GED certificate.

"We think if a person gets in a position that they like, that they'll stay there longer and they'll enjoy their position," Autry said.

If a participant lacks experience, TANF has partnerships with 177 organizations for volunteer work.

TANF may not always be able to find the perfect job in the perfect area, so participants are encouraged to look for jobs they would enjoy.

For the employer, the subsidized employment program provides 100 percent reimbursement



of the participant's workers' compensation and wages for the first three months of work. The wage compensation rate is dropped to 50 percent for the subsequent three months.

This can help employers have time to rework their budget before they begin to cover workers' compensation and wages.

The employer signs an agreement with TANF to employ the participant full-time after the completion of the program unless there is good cause for termination.

Autry said that employers also benefit from knowing that an employee is going to work out.

"It gives them the opportunity to evaluate someone to see if they are a good fit before they make any type of financial investment," Autry said.

During the six months, TANF requests evaluations of the participant so that they can assist with any potential issues.

"We actually strive to ensure that it's a win-win for both the participant and the employer by conducting assessments prior to placement and obtaining periodic evaluations from the employer; as well as providing job coaching," Autry said.

Since the program went into affect Oct. 1, 2013, Autry has had five individuals participate in the program; three employed with MCN. Thompson will be the first individual to complete the program.

After 12 months of employment, the participant receives a $1,500 incentive.

MCN CRD Director Floyd Jones said his experience with managing Thompson has been favorable.

"I want to promote what they're doing because it's been successful," Jones said. "I'd like to see citizens that are in a likewise situation have that opportunity to show their skills and what they can bring to the table."

Thompson believes that seeking out TANF services is not embarrassing. She said that the program can help you get back on your feet and obtain long-term goals.

"It's all about long-term and about how you interpret or how you see yourself… I don't think that it's a give out," Thompson said. "Pride and all those things; you kind of have to forget those things to take care of your family… I don't think that there's anything wrong with it."

For TANF qualification information, or to apply to be an employer for TANF participants, call: 918-732-7985.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation offers apprenticeships

Departments collaborate to benefit citizens

Amanda Rutland/*Media Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Employment and Training Department has partnered with the MCN: Tribal Employment Rights Office, Tribal Construction Services, Transportation Department Force Account and Housing Department to offer apprenticeships.

Currently, apprenticeships are available in the fields of carpentry, plumbing and heating and air. The program was designed to provide on the job training, classroom hours, teach life skills and bolster self-sufficiency.

"We wanted to create something to where people didn't have to attend [college]," ET Director Courtney Josie said. "We picked up on the trades programs because we wanted them to get hands on experience along with classroom time."

During classroom training, participants learn basic math for trades and building codes.

Tribal Construction Services Construction Engineer James Allred explained how the math course is used to level concrete slabs and foundations.

"In high school, you vaguely remember the Pythagorean theorem, which is basically A2+B2=C2," Allred said. "These guys are actually using that and applying it out here."

ET Career Specialist Kimberly Martel said the participants also learn other career readiness training.

"Some of the things we will have them doing is career assessments," Martel said. "Also, we have them doing Work Keys, which is a certificate that they can receive."

Work Keys is a national skills assessment that measures math, reading and location information. Once Work Keys is completed, participants receive the Oklahoma Career Readiness Certificate.

Martel explained the program's screening process.

"What we are doing is looking for people who are currently unemployed and those who have had some experience in that area; and those who are willing to train in all phases of the construction process," Martel said.

After being accepted, participants are separated into two crews; one supervised by Secretary of Housing Brad Fox and the other is supervised by Allred. The teams are rotated to different positions and sites to gain more experience.

"Just because you're in one program, you still need to know how the other trades are going to be effecting your work," Allred said.

Allred and his crew worked on a new MRI building for the MCN Department of Health, located north of the MCN Medical Center formerly known as Okmulgee Memorial Hospital.

Allred explained how intertribal construction projects benefit the departments involved.

"We are already funded by the tribe, but [MCNDH] pay for all the subcontractors involved and all the materials that we need. Basically, we are able to do the project at cost," Allred said.

TERO collects a fee for the jobs contracted and that fee pays the apprentices' wages.

Participants have a two, four and six month evaluations, with the six-month evaluation determining whether or not they will remain in the program.

The apprenticeships are designed to be a minimum of two years. However, after four years, the participants are qualified to test for a journeyman's license.

"We want to utilize what we have and teach these guys a broad general skill. The ultimate goal is to move toward sovereignty. We can't truly be sovereign if we are having to contract all our work out to other contractors," Allred said.

According to Martel, ET would like to offer electrician and Certified Nurses Aide training in the future.

"More than 75 percent of our clients are in the health sciences field," Martel said.

ET will begin taking applications in January. Josie said that depending on the program's success, they would accept new applications every six months.

For more information, contact ET Intake Specialist Donnita Severs at: 918-732-7773.

Who represents you: Jerry McPeak



Submission
Oklahoma State Rep. Jerry McPeak (left) takes the oath of office in the Capitol House Chamber.

Representative recalls campaign experience

Jessica McBride/*Editorial Assistant*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Ten years ago, Muscogee (Creek) citizen Jerry McPeak was running around neighborhoods in Muskogee and Checotah, Okla., knocking on doors in a green campaign ball cap to introduce himself as a candidate to represent Oklahoma District 13.

His son Jeff had persuaded him to run for office, even though the family had no political experience.

McPeak taught psychology and coached the livestock judging team at Connors State College in Warner, Okla., for 27 years.

He said he is best known for judging livestock shows across the nation and training young people.

"We started 33 years ago, a camp called 'Be A Champ' show cattle camp; my family and I," McPeak said.

According to McPeak, they had 50 children participate in the camp the first year. This year, that number increased to 500 children from 18 states.

McPeak describes himself as short, fat, bald-headed and old.

"Not a bit of it's not true," McPeak said.

When visiting McPeak, he asks to be called Jerry, not Rep. McPeak or another formal title. He will say that his mom named him Jerry and that is what he prefers.

Besides physical attributes, McPeak states that his greatest assets are the people that surround him.

"I don't know that I'm very smart or I don't know that I'm very good about anything; but I am really good at putting really good people around me… and they make me look really good," McPeak said.

He considers the joke, that his team could handle the task without him, a compliment.

"I never accomplished anything by myself that I can ever remember at all," McPeak said. "I have every reason to succeed and no reasons to fail. I'm the epitome of no excuses."

McPeak's Legislative Assistant Janice Stotts has worked with him for 10 years. Both emphasize the word 'with,' and not 'for' when referring to employment.

McPeak and Stotts refer to a story back in the beginning of their tenure in which Stotts stated that she worked 'for' McPeak. He told her they were a team for District 13.

"Unlike so many in this building who are all about themselves; he's a different sort," Stotts said. "He's all about what one's talents are and recognizing those… he doesn't take enough credit for himself."

Stotts said that around the capitol, McPeak expresses pride in his Muscogee (Creek) citizenship.

"He's very proud of his Native heritage and there isn't anyone who knows him at all that is unaware of his Native heritage," Stotts said.

McPeak, who is affiliated with the democrat party and is the minority caucus chair for the Oklahoma House of Representatives, said that he does not know what a liberal or a conservative person is.

He applies the concept to how he handles things in the political sphere.

"I never thought about how a republican or democrat would think about it," McPeak said. "I only thought about how you solve the problem."

When he ran for office in 2004, he admits that he knew nothing about campaigning and politics. He said that he did not have the money to advertise like his opponent did.

So every day, he walked door to door along with his family and some of his students to meet the people he would soon represent; regardless of political affiliation, race or social class.

"We tried to put a face in front of them instead of a mailer," McPeak said. "On Saturday, if I didn't have 40 people show up; I'd had a bad day."

On the night of the watch party when the election results were announced, McPeak said he was unsure of what to say.

"I was sitting there fumbling with my cap… I didn't know what to say and I got to looking at the cap and I thought, 'you know, this is who we are… we're just salty and just worked,' " McPeak said.

Again, McPeak passed on credit for the accomplishment.

"And other people put their sweat and their time capital into sending me to the capitol that, it wasn't so much about me," McPeak said. "It was really about them. And that's very humbling and very important. And I told them I said this cap is indicative of who we are."

McPeak remembered the sentiment of the moment, and promised to wear his cap or one like it to the capitol each week to remember.

He was moved that so many people worked so hard to help him.

"People have put a lot of investment; you know, not just their time but their hearts and their belief and their faith… that's important," McPeak said.

McPeak will not appear on the ballot for the 2014 election because he ran unopposed. Per the Oklahoma State Constitution, this will be his last two-year term.

McPeak is currently the Muscogee (Creek) Nation tax commissioner. He was recently re-appointed to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Council on Native American Farming and Ranching.

NMAI to host Mvskoke Etvlwv Festival

WASHINGTON — The Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation present Mvskoke Etvlwv: The Muscogee People Festival. This three-day event will take place Friday, Nov. 14, through Sunday, Nov. 16. The festival will celebrate heritage, tribal history and culture of the MCN with performances, an art market and demonstrations from 10:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. daily.

The celebration will include the event a Dinner and a Movie: 'This May Be the Last Time' on Saturday, Nov. 15 in the Rasmuson Theater at 7 p.m. The movie recounts that when in 1962 Pete Harjo mysteriously went missing after his car crashed on a rural bridge in Sasakwa, Okla., members of the Seminole Indian community searched for him while singing songs of faith and hope that had been passed on for generations. This film premiered at the 2014 Sundance Film Festival in January 2014. A discussion with director Sterlin Harjo (Seminole/Creek) will follow the presentation.

A special play will be presented throughout the festival at 2 p.m. daily in the Rasmuson Theater. 'The Dawes Commission,' set in 1904, focuses on a Muscogee (Creek) family who is visited by an agent from the Dawes Commission. The agent's orders are to persuade the family to accept allotment. The play is performed in the Mvskoke Language with English supertitles.

The festival will bring special Native food to our Mitsitam Native Foods Cafe. During all three days of the event, visitors will be able to see and buy arts and crafts of nine artisans:

- Tricia Alexander — Cultural Food Information
- Dan Beaver — War Clubs and Ballsticks
- Harry and Diane Beaver — Basket Weaving
- Jimmy and Ceka Deere — Ballsticks
- Darla Dirksen — Baskets
- Nelson 'Scotty' Harjo — Flutes
- Mary Smith — Baskets and Mats
- Dana Tiger — Contemporary Art
- Sandy Wilson — Cultural Crafts, Jewelry, Textiles

Several performances will be held daily in the Potomac Atrium. Each day starts with an Opening Ceremony at 10:30 a.m. followed by posting of colors. A Stompdance group will demonstrate at 12 and 3:30 p.m. A Creek Hymnal singing group will perform at 11:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. Visitors will watch a Flute performance at 12:30 p.m.

Our imagiNATIONS center on the third floor will hold activities for kids of all ages. A Finger Weaving demonstration will be presented at 11:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. daily. Ongoing Coloring will happen all three days at 12 and 4 p.m.

For more details about the festival, visit: www.AmericanIndian.si.edu. Join the conversation on Twitter @SmithsonianNMAI and use the hashtag #MuscogeeFestNMAI.

Museum to host Rock Your Mocs fundraising auction

Five Civilized Tribes Museum to exhibit Native artists

Amanda Rutland/*Media Specialist*

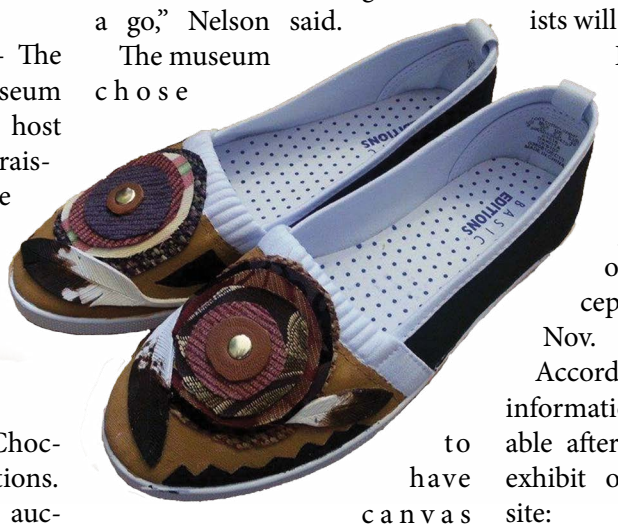
OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Five Civilized Tribes Museum in Muskogee, Okla., will host the Rock Your Mocs fundraising exhibition during the month of November.

The exhibit will consist of canvas shoes decorated by 26 Native artists from the Muscogee (Creek), Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw and Seminole Nations.

The shoes will be auctioned on eBay and the proceeds will benefit the museum.

FCTM Gift Shop Manager and Exhibit Coordinator Mary Beth Nelson said that this is the first year for the event.

"We were discussing different types of fundraisers at a staff meeting and that was one that I had seen in a few other places and we decided to give it a go," Nelson said.



The museum chose to have canvas shoes instead of traditional moccasins because of time and funding constraints.

"We had a private donator that donated the shoes, and then we supplied the shoes for the artists," Nelson said. "They supply whatever they put on them: the beadwork, the paint, the cloth, leather, whatever."

Six Muscogee (Creek) artists will contribute, including Dana Tiger and former FCTM employee John Timothy II.

The exhibit will open Nov. 1 and go through the end of the month. A reception will be held Nov. 22 from 4-8 p.m.

According to Nelson, more information will be available after the opening of the exhibit on the FCTM website: www.fivetribes.org.

Nelson also said there will be a computer at the museum to be used for bidding. The office staff will assist anyone who needs help with bidding.

TERO
TRIBAL EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS OFFICE

Attention **ALL** skilled and unskilled Native American Job Seekers

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation TERO Office is seeking Applicants for our Job Bank.
The TERO Office is looking to put Creek Citizens and other Tribal Citizens to work.
TERO assists in the employment of Tribal Citizens with our TERO Certified Vendors on various projects, locations and positions.

Apply in person, online, or by mail to:
Muscogee (Creek) Nation
TERO (Tribal Employment Rights Office)
Loop 56 and Highway 75 (Education and Training Building)
P.O. Box 580
Okmulgee, OK 74447
918-549-2964
TERO Application Online:
http://www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov/Pages/Tero/teroappforms.html
Fax TERO Application to: 918-549-2969


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MUSCOGEE
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PAID OUT
MONTHLY!
NOV.
28
BLACK
FRIDAY
This facility is regulated by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Office of Gaming
Friday November 28th
NOON - 8:00 PM
Standard - $5 Match Play 1st Class - $10 Free Play
VIP - $20 Free Play Elite - $50 Free Play
One (1) Hot Seat Drawing every 30 minutes from NOON - 8:00PM. Each Hot Seat winner will select an item from the prize wall. Win up to $1,000 cash!
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Veterans of valor: Ernest Tiger



Submission
U.S. Marine and Muscogee (Creek) citizen Ernest Tiger receives the Purple Heart.

Citizen leads a life of service

Amanda Rutland/*Media Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Ernest Tiger was a decorated Vietnam War veteran, member of the National Guard, a family man and an avid volunteer at the Jack C. Montgomery Veterans Affairs Hospital in Muskogee, Okla.

"I cannot remember a time in my life when my dad was not involved in some kind of something to do with the military," Ernest's daughter, Yonne Tiger said.

Yonne recalled memories of childhood trips.

"It always felt like, the different travels that we went on, that he always had a friend somewhere. A lot of times they were new ones he just met," Yonne said.

Ernest graduated from Sequoyah Boarding School in 1966 and enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps the following September.

Classmate and Air Force veteran Louis McGertt said Ernest was one of six classmates to enlist in the military.

"Actually, we were playing cards in one of the rooms when we weren't supposed to. We were gambling," McGertt said. "That's when Ernie said, 'let's all go in the Marine Corps together.' "

Before Ernest left for Vietnam, he married Leona Wickson Sept. 7, 1966. His date of entry for the Marines was Sept. 12, 1966.

Yonne spoke about her parents.

"Our mom was his childhood sweetheart and he wanted to make sure that if he didn't come home, that she would have benefits," Yonne said.

Daughter Carmen Tiger said he was completely in love with their mother.

"They met when he was in the ninth grade and he fell in love with my mom pretty much instantly and tried to get her to go out with him for two years," Carmen said. "That is the only boyfriend, man that she has known her entire life."

In Vietnam, Ernest fought with the 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment whose motto was 'Second to None.'

According to the 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines Association website, they are nicknamed The Magnificent Bastards who launched Operation Hastings and Operation Prairie I. They also fought in the Siege of Con Thien.

Ernest was wounded in action and was awarded a Purple Heart.

Carmen said Ernest did not talk about his experiences in Vietnam, but he told the story of his escape.

"What little things he did say just like when he had got injured, that they had picked him up in a helicopter in a basket and that he barely made it into the basket. They were trying to shoot at him and he could hear them bullets whizzing by," Carmen said. "They decided just to leave him in the basket…and just zoom off because they said they were afraid they would get blown up too."

Carmen said that he was sent home for his injury and his battalion was wiped out not long after.

Carmen said Ernest was invited to try out for the Navy SEALs or another Special Forces group. He passed every test except being able to float on his back.

Ernest attended the University of Tulsa where he earned a degree in criminal justice.

Yonne and Carmen said he worked a variety of different law enforcement jobs, from police chief to drug investigator.

"He did the largest drug bust in State of Oklahoma, but now they have surpassed that, when he was a drug investigator in Tahlequah," Carmen.

Yonne said Ernest wanted to be a lawyer and he encouraged her to go to law school.

"That's how I became a lawyer," Yonne said.

After retirement, he volunteered frequently and drove a shuttle to take veterans to and from appointments.

"He would take people that were injured and he would take younger people from the Iraq War," Carmen said. "That was real important to him; brought a lot of fulfillment."

Yonne said there was a veteran whom Ernest shuttled that stuck out in her mind.

The veteran was upset because he was going to have a procedure that required him to shave his head.

"[The veteran] said all the young women would not like him and he wouldn't be able to get a date," Yonne said. "So, my dad told him that he would shave his head too… One day I came home and there was my dad with no hair…I thought it was funny."

Ernest passed away Feb. 3, 2007 and is buried in the Fort Gibson National Cemetery in Fort Gibson, Okla.







IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

DISTRICT COURT
FILED
2014 OCT 9 PM 1 18
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
DONNA BEAVER
COURT CLERK

IN THE MATTER OF:
T.F.; DOB: 12/27/10
M.F.; DOB: 09/06/09
Alleged Deprived Children.

Case No. JV-2014-01

NOTICE OF HEARING TO:

Christopher Field, Father to T.F. and M.F.

YOU ARE HEREBY GIVEN NOTICE that a Petition to Terminate Parental Rights has been filed against you in the above-styled and numbered cause and will be heard in the District Courtroom of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Tribal Complex in Okmulgee, Oklahoma on the **9th day of January, 2015** at **9:00 A.M.**

YOU ARE HEREBY INFORMED that it is sought by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation that the child remains a ward of the Court and custody be continued in the Children and Family Services Administration for continued foster placement of possible pre-adoptive placement. **YOU ARE FUTHER INFORMED** that you have the right to be represented by legal counsel at this hearing.

FURTHERMORE, failure to appear at the hearing shall constitute a denial of interest in the child which denial may result, without further notice of this proceeding or any subsequent proceeding, in the termination of your parental rights.

JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

DISTRICT COURT
FILED
2014 OCT 9 PM 1 28
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
DONNA BEAVER
COURT CLERK

In the Matter of the Guardianship of the Persons and Estates of:
K. R. I.
A. K. B. S.
J. N. S.
Minor Children.

Case No. GD-2014-29

SERVICE OF SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION NOTICE

To: Unknown Fathers, of A.K.B.S. and J.N.S.

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued for guardianship of the Minor Children in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, GD 2014-29, styled In the Matter of the Guardianship of the Persons and Estates of: K.R.I., A.K.B.S. and J.N.S., minor children. The action alleges that the petitioners are entitled to a Final Decree of Guardianship over the minor children.

You are notified that you must answer the *Petition* filed by the petitioner or appear on the 12th day of December, 2014, at 10:00 o'clock a.m. or the allegations contained in the *Petition* will be taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of petitioner as prayed for in their *Petition*.

Given under my hand and seal this 9th day of October, 2014.

Donna Beaver, Court Clerk
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court,
Okmulgee District
By: Robie King
(Deputy)

Approved:

Courtney L. Eagan-Smith, MCN#543
McKenna & Prescott
114 N. Grand Ave, North Lobby
Okmulgee, OK 74447
(918) 756-1112 Telephone
(918) 756-1113 Facsimile
Attorney for Petitioner

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

DISTRICT COURT
FILED
2014 OCT 9 PM 1 30
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
DONNA BEAVER
COURT CLERK

In the Matter of the Guardianship of the Persons and Estates of:
E.M.H.,
A.I.H., and
F.M.T.
A Minor Children.

Case No. GD-2014-35

SERVICE OF SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION NOTICE

To: Ramundo Ramirez
Jacob Soliz
Michael Trevino

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued for guardianship of the Minor Children in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, GD 2014-35, styled In the Matter of the Guardianship of the Persons and Estates of: E.M.H., A.I.H. and F.M.T., minor children. The action alleges that the petitioner is entitled to an Order of Guardianship over the minor children.

You are notified that you must answer the *Petition* filed by the petitioner or appear on the 12th day of December, 2014, at 10:00 o'clock a.m. or the allegations contained in the *Petition* will be taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of petitioner as prayed for in their *Petition*.

Given under my hand and seal this 9th day of October, 2014.

Donna Beaver, Court Clerk
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court,
Okmulgee District
By: Robie King
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114 N. Grand Ave, North Lobby
Okmulgee, OK 74447
(918) 756-1112 Telephone
(918) 756-1113 Facsimile
Attorney for Petitioner

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

DISTRICT COURT
FILED
2014 OCT 10 AM 9 19
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
DONNA BEAVER
COURT CLERK

IN THE MATTER OF:
A.C.; DOB: 10/14/10
A.W.; DOB: 11/06/11
B.W., Jr.; DOB: 05/20/13
J.W.; DOB: 05/11/14
Alleged Deprived Children.

Case No. JV-2014-07

NOTICE OF HEARING TO:

Erik D. Craven, Father to A.C.; DOB: 10/14/10

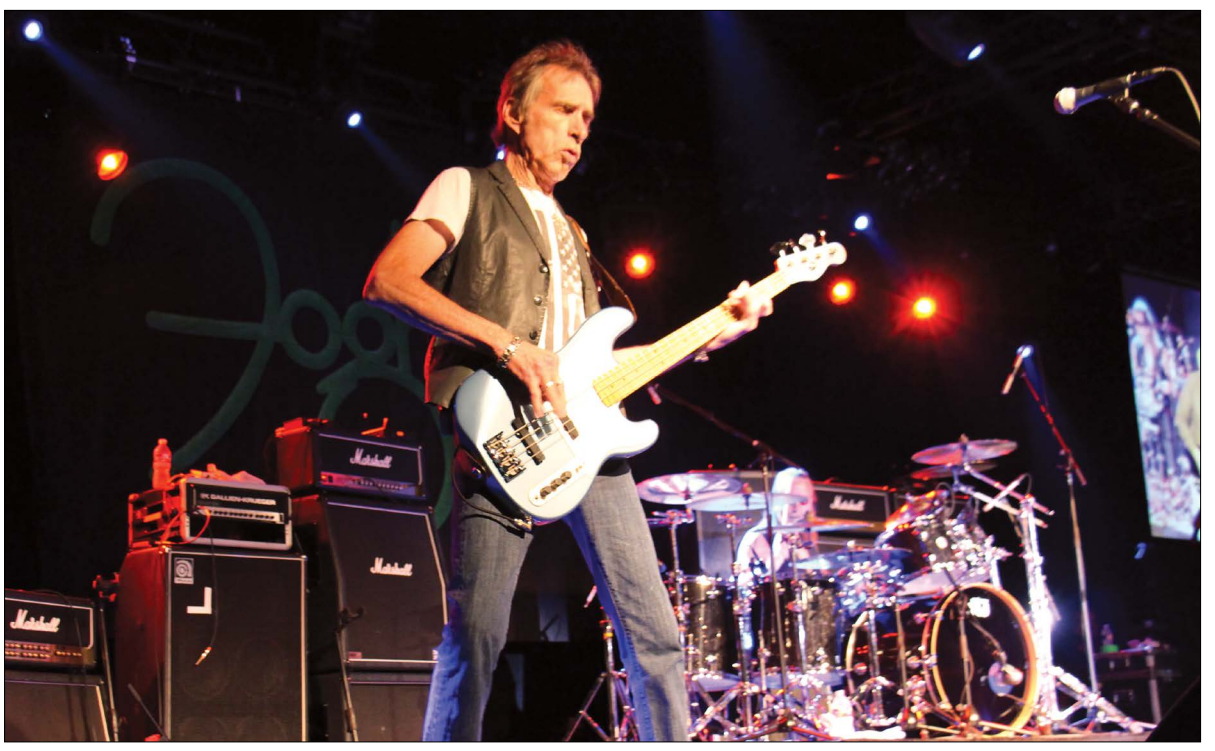
YOU ARE HEREBY GIVEN NOTICE that a Petition to Terminate Parental Rights has been filed against you in the above-styled and numbered cause and will be heard in the District Courtroom of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Tribal Complex in Okmulgee, Oklahoma on the **9th day of January, 2015** at **9:00 A.M.**

YOU ARE HEREBY INFORMED that it is sought by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation that the child remains a ward of the Court and custody be continued in the Children and Family Services Administration for continued foster placement of possible pre-adoptive placement. **YOU ARE FUTHER INFORMED** that you have the right to be represented by legal counsel at this hearing.

FURTHERMORE, failure to appear at the hearing shall constitute a denial of interest in the child which denial may result, without further notice of this proceeding or any subsequent proceeding, in the termination of your parental rights.

JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT

Foghat returns to River Spirit Casino



MNN/Darren DeLaune

Foghat bassist Craig MacGregor played during the band's performance Sept. 19 at Muscogee (Creek) Nation River Spirit Casino Event Center in Tulsa, Okla.

Band makes third River Spirit appearance

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

TULSA, Okla. — Award winning British rock band Foghat returned to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and performed Sept. 19 at the MCN River Spirit Casino in Tulsa.

People young and old came together for a concert from the band that performed songs such as the 1978 hit 'Stone Blue' and the well-known 1975 classic 'Slow Ride.'

This is the third time that Foghat has performed at River Spirit Casino.

The band members spoke about how much Tulsa means to them and how excited they were when they saw the city on the tour map.

"It feels like coming back to a familiar place," guitarist Bryan Bassett said. "It feels like coming back home."

Foghat is known for their continuous touring since their inception and do not seem to want to slow down anytime soon.

"We tour almost continuously and we have been doing that for a while now," Bassett said. "What we don't do is go out in six-to-eight week blocks like we did in the old days. We take it easy on ourselves and perform a lot on the weekends so we can be home with the families."

Foghat drummer, Roger Earl shared how long they will continue touring.

"We will continue touring like this until the day we depart this earth," Earl said.

The band is ecstatic about how their music is still going strong; the classics that they have already and new music they introduce to the audience.

"We are really happy with our music and what it has done for the crowds at our shows. Bassett said. "We play a lot of blues and rock so it keeps things fresh for us and we have a different type of crowd each night so that helps also. We always play the hits, but at each show we want to perform our new music for everyone."

After the performance, the group was exhausted but very happy with the show's turnout and the reception from the audience. They delighted their fans with an autograph session in the event center concession area.

"We knew what to expect here in Tulsa and we knew the people would treat us like gold," Bassett said.

Foghat talked about their new album, which they hope to release next year.

"We have finished about nine tracks for the album," Earl said. "We want to get more songs recorded early next year."

Foghat members flew to their respective homes to rest up for a few days and get back on the road for another performance the following weekend.

The band members are Bassett, Earl, bass guitarist Craig MacGregor and vocalist Charlie Huhn.



OBITUARIES

ROY BEAR



BRISTOW, Okla. — Roy Bear was born Aug. 15, 1941 in Edna, Okla., to the late Roley Bear and Kitty L. (Martin) Bear. He passed from this life Sept. 9, 2014 in Claremore, Okla., at the age of 73 years, 0 months and 25 days.

Roy had lived in Creek County and called it home for the majority of his life. He enlisted in the U.S. Army Nov. 29, 1963 and proudly served our country. During his service, he was a very accomplished sharpshooter. Roy was honorably discharged Nov. 26, 1965.

He was very proud of his Native American heritage and served four terms as a member of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council. He was a welder by trade and worked in construction for Okmulgee County until retiring in 2004. Roy's passions included hunting and fishing and as said by many, 'He had a passion for living life.'

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by: brothers, Clifford Bear, Roosevelt Bear, Roley Bear Jr. and Bill Bear and sisters, Kitty Johnson and Opal Measintubby.

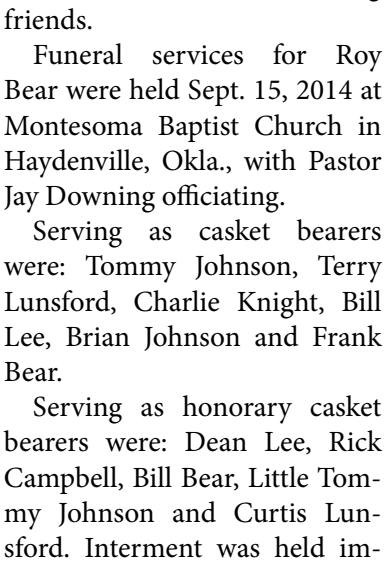
His remaining family include: his son, Sonny Roy Bear of Bristow, Okla.; grandchildren, Dayla Bear, Story Bear and Daniel Bear; brother, John Bear and wife Charlett of Sapulpa, Okla.; sisters, Mable Boyet of Okmulgee, Okla., Bernice Watson of Bristow, and Judy Dunbar along with numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives and loving friends.

Funeral services for Roy Bear were held Sept. 15, 2014 at Montesoma Baptist Church in Haydenville, Okla., with Pastor Jay Downing officiating.

Serving as casket bearers were: Tommy Johnson, Terry Lunsford, Charlie Knight, Bill Lee, Brian Johnson and Frank Bear.

Serving as honorary casket bearers were: Dean Lee, Rick Campbell, Bill Bear, Little Tommy Johnson and Curtis Lunsford. Interment was held immediately following services at Montesoma Cemetery. Funeral arrangements and services were entrusted to the care of Michael's Funeral Home of Bristow.

DUKE HARJO



OKEMAH, Okla. — Duke Monroe Harjo was born into Bear Clan and Alabama Tribal Town in Okemah Sept. 22, 1942 to Jim Busey Harjo Sr. and Lena Wind-Harjo, and transitioned from this world Oct. 9, 2014.

Duke entered Murrow Indian Children's Home at a young age and continued through to boarding school. He was educated at Chilocco Indian School, trained in the care of animals, horses, cattle and ranching, which he spoke fondly of.

He was a stand out in track and field, and ran hurdles, played football there, and served as class president, and president of student council, while also forging lifetime bonds and connections with friends.

Duke attended Haskell Indian Junior College in Lawrence Kan., with his wife Ellen and received an Associate of Arts in liberal arts.

He also matriculated through a Bachelor of Arts in marketing from Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Okla., leaving just before completion to take care of his family in a more substantial way.

Duke enjoyed spending time with his family and friends, visiting with people and making new friends. "He never met a stranger he didn't like." He was dedicated to serving the Sapulpa Indian Community as a charter member from the '70s until his passing.

He coached and mentored children for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Youth Olympics. A learned and wise man, he had many different interests - enjoying stompdances, softball, fishing, football, boxing, basketball, watching the Olympic Games, reading western novels and poetry and listening to classical music. An athlete himself, he was a Golden Gloves boxer; he played semi-pro football for the Tulsa Seminoles and played in the Indian softball and basketball tournament circuit.

Duke was committed to Mvskoke people, serving: as one of the first directors of the MCN Lighthorse Police Department, four terms as a legislator, as the Creek District's council representative, serving on all legislative committees at some time, and chief of Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town and chairman of AQTT governing board.

He was involved in foundational work in tribal government and developing communities after the Indian Self-Determination Act of 1975, and served his Nation for 40 years.

He took leadership in building and developing assets and services for the Sapulpa Indian Community-for young and old and everyone in between.

He was responsible for major efforts in the community capital development, introducing and sponsoring legislation funding the construction of Sapulpa Indian Community building, and an FFA barn for Sapulpa's agricultural students.

He was also responsible for leading efforts to bring an elderly nutrition program to Sapulpa, transportation to area Indian Church and support to Murrow Indian Children's Home.

He answered the call of numerous tribal members for help and counsel. He was a servant of the people. Up until his passing, he still was planning and envisioning good things for the community and he remained passionate and dedicated in his vision for Sapulpa Indian Community and Indian people. Duke created a foundation for leadership and community development that we can build upon. This and his love and commitment for his family and Nation are his legacy.

He is survived by: his wife Ellen Moore-Harjo, children, Dr. Jim Harjo III and wife Beverly of Tulsa, Okla., and Dr. Laura Lea Harjo of Albuquerque, N.M.; granddaughters, Faith Harjo, Hope Harjo, and Patience Harjo of Tulsa, and Hotvlkuce Harjo of Albuquerque; great-grandson, Gabriel 'Boomer' Harjo of Tulsa; brothers, Francis Harjo 'Chubbs' of Glenpool, Okla., and Jim B. Harjo, Jr. 'Lil' of Okmulgee, Okla.; nieces, Jennifer Porter 'Missy' of Sapulpa, Okla., and Connie Paige Harjo of Okmulgee; nephews, Francis Harjo, Jr. 'Man' of London England, Christopher Harjo of Coweta, Okla., Terrence Duke Harjo of Okmulgee and James Harjo 'Chebon' of Glenpool.

He is preceded in his transition by: his parents, granddaughter, Joy Harjo; brothers, John James Harjo and Norman Lee Harjo and sister, Connie Lynn Harjo.

A memorial was set for Oct. 14 at Smith Funeral Home, 1208 South Main St. in Sapulpa, followed by a wake at High Spring Indian Baptist Church in Oklahoma and the Funeral Service Oct. 15, 2014 at High Spring Indian Baptist Church in Okemah with Rev. Ray Samuel officiating.

The pallbearers are: Nelson 'Windy' Wind, Christopher Harjo, Terrence Duke Harjo, James Harjo, Alfred Mason and Cordell Whitetree.

Honorary pallbearers are: Francis Harjo Jr., Alfred Berryhill, Loy Thomas, Alfred 'Sonny' Bevenue and Everett 'Chico' Wood. Interment followed at the Wind Family Cemetery. This online guestbook is available at: www.smithfuneralhomesapulpa.com.

ELMER JIMBOY



OKMULGEE, Okla. — Elmer Lee Jimboy, a resident of Okmulgee, passed away Oct. 13, 2014 at the age of 70. He was born Dec. 1, 1943 to Woodrow and Ella Mae Manley-Jimboy in Okemah, Okla. He served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War and was a member of the Second Baptist Church in Okmulgee.

He won the National Championship in fast pitch, at which he played shortstop. Elmer enjoyed spending time with his family but he loved his grandchildren most of all. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

He was preceded in death by: his parents, Woodrow and Ella Mae Jimboy; brother, Edwin Gene Jimboy and sister, Elaine Branch.

Survivors include: his wife, Debbie Jimboy of the home; children, Tonya McCollum of Tulsa, Okla., Michael (Cheetah) Jimboy of Okmulgee, Tiarra Jimboy of Okmulgee and Tessie Jimboy of Okmulgee; grandchildren, Cameron and Cody Yocham, Jesse Glass, Courtney McCollum, Brandon Jimboy, Mariah Sanders, Isaiah and Talia Jimboy, Jade Whinery and Jax Finch; great-grandson, Kason and numerous other relatives and friends.

Visitation was set for Oct. 15 at the Jackson Funeral Home Chapel in Okmulgee.

Wake Services were set for Oct. 15 at the Jackson Funeral Home Chapel in Okmulgee.

Funeral Services were set for Oct. 16 at the Creek Chapel Methodist Church in Clearview, Okla., with Rev. Ed Jimboy officiating. Burial followed the service at the Creek Chapel Cemetery under the direction of the Jackson Funeral Home and Crematory in Okmulgee.

Pallbearers are: Phillip Finch, Paul Roberts, Jared Bunner, Trevan Jimboy, James Jimboy, Mark Jimboy and William Proctor.

Honorary Pallbearers are: Grover Wind, Ray Barnett, Terry Jimboy and Bryan McGertt.

Military honors will be conducted by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Honor Guard.

Friends may send their condolences to: www.jacksonfhandcrematory.com.

DEBORAH NOYES

HANNAH, Okla. — Deborah Noyes, 61, of Hanna, passed away Sept. 10, 2014 at her home. Deborah was born May 1, 1953 in Okmulgee, Okla., to Gen. Dewey and Willo Dee (Rose) Tolbert. She was married to Dwight Noyes, who preceded her in death in 1995.

In 1991, Deborah received her G.E.D. She served as president of the Hanna Community Center.

Survivors include: her sons, Jerry Burleson, Dewey Noyes and Jonnie Noyes; daughter, Vickie Brown; sisters, Janet Watkins, Sandra Stockston, Eva Watkins, Teresa Stephens and Rita Mondir; 13 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. She is preceded in death by: her parents, Gen. Dewey and Willo Dee Tolbert and husband, Dwight Noyes.

A memorial service was held Sept. 17 at the Moores South Lawn Chapel in Tulsa, Okla., with Dr. Christopher Thompson officiating. Cremation arrangements were made with Hunn Black & Merritt Funeral Home & Crematory. Online condolences may be made at www.hbmfuneralhome.com.





Muscogee (Creek) Nation Community and Tribal Events

Fall harvest revival set for Nov. 2-5

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A fall harvest revival is set for Nov. 2-5, 7 p.m. nightly at Belvin Baptist Church in Okmulgee.

The music leader will be Shirley Falls and nursery will be provided.

Candidate filing for second chief election set for Nov. 3-5

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Candidate filing for the upcoming special election to fill the vacant position of Muscogee (Creek) Nation second chief is set for Nov. 3-5 from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. and 1-4 p.m. daily at the tribal conference room on the MCN Tribal Complex.

For more information, including filing requirements, contact the MCN Election Board at: 918-732-7631.

Education/career expo set for Nov. 6

BEGGS, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Education and Training has set the 2nd annual Education and Career Expo for Nov. 6 from 1-3 p.m. at the Beggs High School Dome.

For more information contact Caci Biggs at: 918-732-7778.

Family Reunion set for Nov. 8

HOLDENVILLE, Okla. — A reunion for the family of Fannie Factor Fixico is set for 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., Nov. 8 at the Holdenville Creek Indian Community Center, 224 E. Poplar.

Bring a covered dish or dessert and games will be played after lunch.

For more information contact DeLois Roulston at: 405-226-3894.

Revival set for Nov. 12-15

HENRYETTA, Okla. — A revival is set for 7 p.m. nightly, Nov. 12-15 at Little Cussetah United Methodist Church at 24205 S. 220 Rd., Henryetta, OK.

Refreshments will be served after every service and Yvonne Lewis from Channel 8 will speak Nov. 13.

For more information contact Rev. David Dunson at: 918-752-7098 or Karen King at: 918-652-5256.

For directions call one of the numbers listed above or visit the Little Cussetah Facebook page.

Native arts/crafts event set for Nov. 15

TULSA, Okla. — Tulsa Indian United Methodist Church has set a Native American arts and crafts event for Nov. 15 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at TIUMC, 1901 N. College, Tulsa, OK, 74110.

For more information call 918-834-1956 or email: tulsaindianumc@outlook.com.

Earth Day event set for Nov. 15

HOLDENVILLE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Office of Environmental Services has set an Earth Day celebration, featuring trash and recyclables collecting, for Nov. 15 from 9:30 a.m. - 3: 30 p.m. at the Holdenville Indian Community Center.

For more information call: 918-549-2580.

Native American Christmas market set for Dec. 6

SAPULPA, Okla. — The 4th annual Native American Christmas Market is set for Dec. 6, from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. at the Elks Lodge in Sapulpa.

The vendor fee is $75. For more information contact Tricia Alexander at: 918-629-7187 or email: autumnstarcatering@gmail.com.

Native beauty pageant/talent show set for Jan. 30-31, 2015

GLENPOOL, Okla. — A Native beauty pageant is set for Jan. 30, 2015 and a Native talent show is set for Jan. 31, 2015 at the Glenpool Conference Center in Glenpool.

For more information visit: www.rosieeliteexpos.com or call: 918-857-6630.

Enrollment open for Medicare Part D

MCN SSA/*Media Release*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Open season is here for Medicare Part D and will run through Dec. 7.

This is your chance to review your health care coverage and see if you need to make any changes for next year. Or, you may decide you're happy with the plan you have now. If that's the case, and the plan is still being offered next year, you don't need to do anything.

If you are selecting a plan for the first time or want to change plans, contact your patient benefit coordinator at your local clinic.

The patient benefit coordinators have access to your current prescriptions and have been trained to select a plan that best suits your needs

Medicare Part D helps with the cost of prescription drugs prescribed by your health care provider. Anyone who has Medicare Part A, Medicare Part B or Medicare Part C, is eligible for prescription drug coverage. Joining a Medicare prescription drug plan is voluntary and you pay an additional monthly premium for the coverage.

If you cannot afford to pay your Medicare Part D premiums, you may be able to get 'Extra Help' to pay your premiums, annual deductibles and prescription co-payments. The 'Extra Help' is worth an average of $3,900 per year.

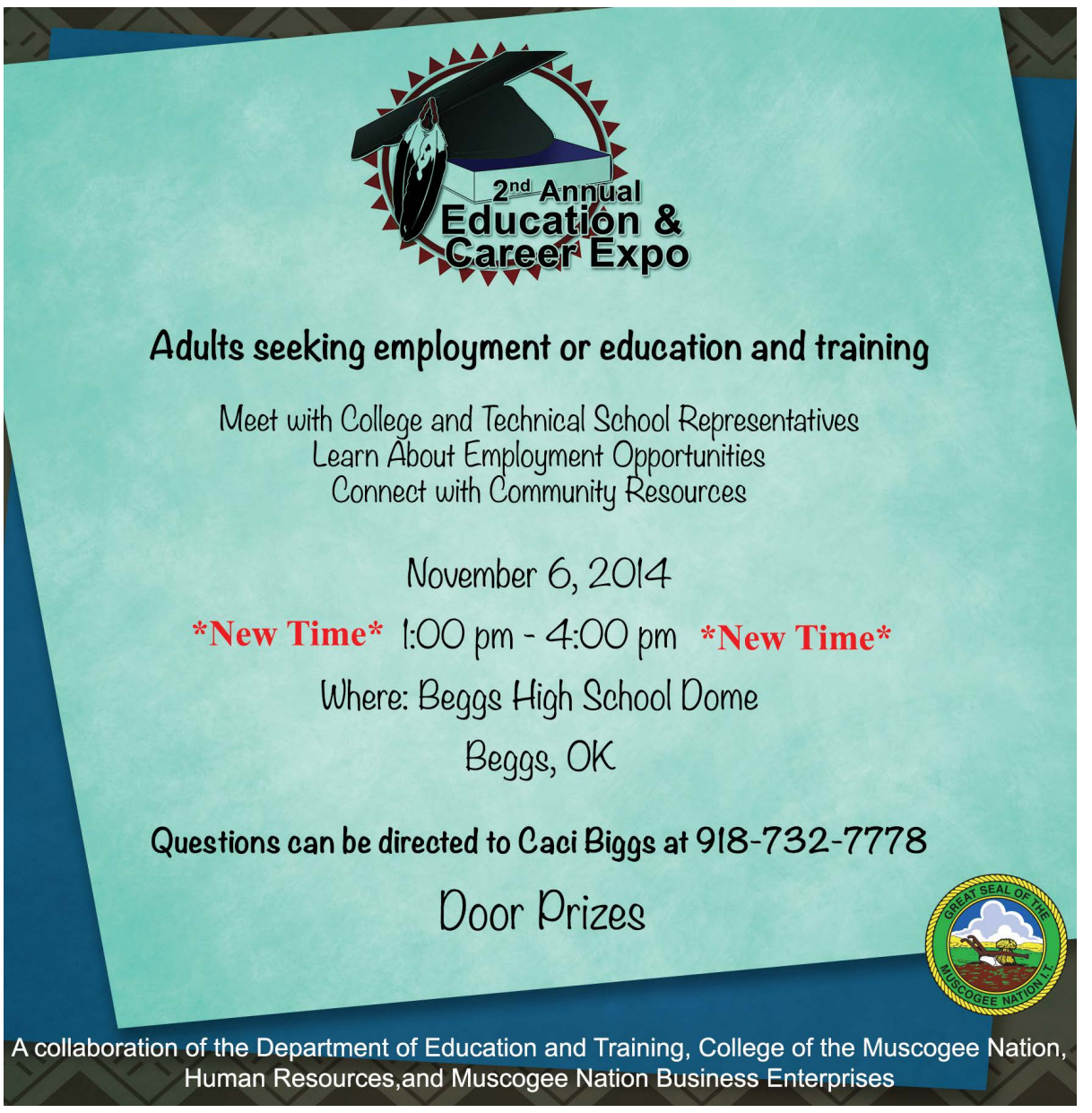
For assistance in signing up for 'Extra Help' or answering questions regarding Medicare Part D, please call the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Social Security Assistance Program at: 918-549-2479 or visit us at the MCN Tribal Complex in the Solomon McCombs building.

If you have a social security question that you would like to have answered in this column, you may submit the question using: fax, 918-549-2427; phone, 918-549-2479; email, lfarris@mcn-nsn.gov or by regular mail, Muscogee (Creek) Nation, SSAP, PO Box 580; Okmulgee OK, 74447.

A word search from the Mvskoke Language Preservation Program: *Bathroom*

SAKLOPKV - Bathtub
ESKASKV - Comb
KASETV - Brush
EKISSE ESKVRPECKV - Hair Dryer
ACCVKE VTEHETV - Laundry Basket
SVTARKUECKV - Scale
SVKASKV - Razor
COKHESSE SOKKOSKV - Shaving Cream
SEKVRPECKV - Towel
SEKVRPECKV VTVRETV - Towel Rack
OH-OKKOSKV - Sink
UEWV E OHPVLVTKV - Shower
SOAP - Kvpe
CUKUCE - Toilet
CUKUCE ENCOKV - Toilet Paper
NUTE-ESHVSVTECETV - Tooth Brush
ESTE NUTE-SOKKOSKV - Tooth Paste

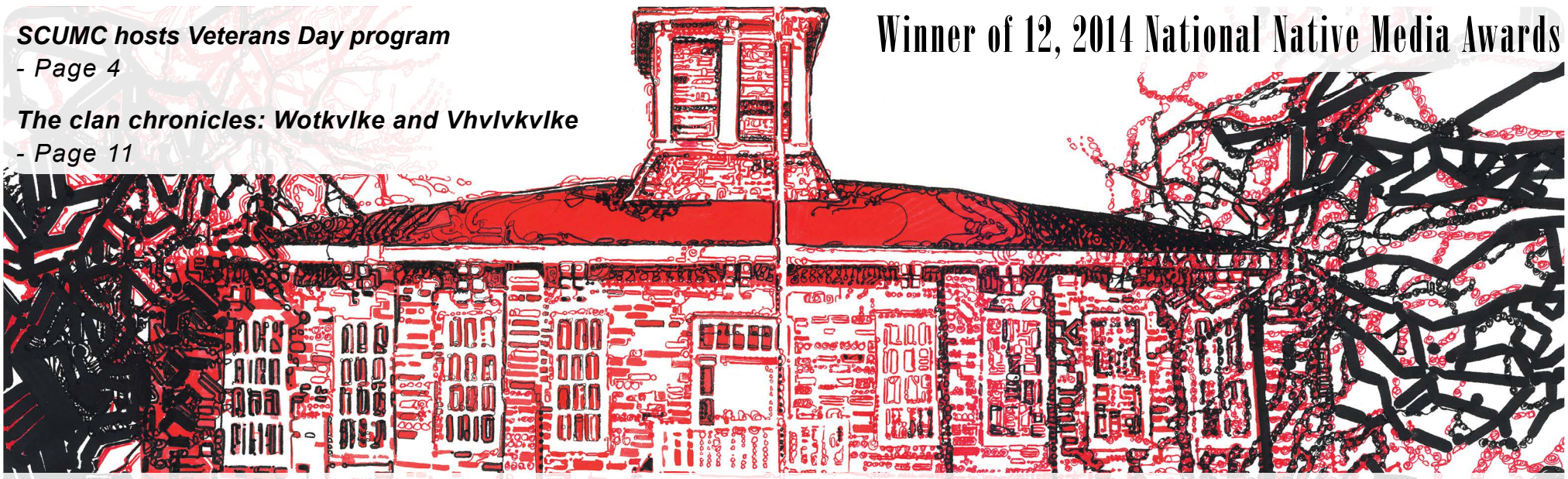
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SCUMC hosts Veterans Day program
- Page 4

The clan chronicles: Wotkvlke and Vhvlvkvlke
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Winner of 12, 2014 National Native Media Awards



Muscogee Nation News

Mvskoke Media production — The official tribal newspaper of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation

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"Ehole"
Frost Month

MCN FVPP hosts domestic violence awareness event

'Love is Respect' held at Mound Building

Chelsie Rich/*Project Specialist*



MNN/Chelsie Rich
Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger reads a proclamation declaring October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month at MCN during the Love is Respect event Oct. 25 held in the Mound Building on the MCN Tribal Complex in Okmulgee.

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Family Violence Prevention Program hosted the Love is Respect event Oct. 25 in the Mound Building on the MCN Tribal Complex in Okmulgee to help raise domestic violence awareness.

"We are here today to not only honor and remember victims and survivors of domestic violence, but to provide education and awareness," MCN FVPP Director Shawn Partridge said.

To start the event, MCN Principal Chief George Tiger read a proclamation declaring October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month for MCN.

"I see domestic violence as being something that has never been part of our lives, never been a part of our dreams, never being part of our culture," Tiger said. "So it honors me that we can do this to acknowledge that these things are disrupting something that we can overcome."

The event featured a special screening of the documentary 'Telling Amy's Story,' which follows the timeline of a domestic violence homicide that occurred Nov. 8, 2001 in State College, Pa.

"What we've learned through Amy's story and so many others; leaving does not always fix or solve the solution. That's not the answer," FVPP Project Coordinator Tania Bardin said. "So we've got to change how we look at that and how we think about how we deal with domestic violence."

Bardin shared information from domestic violence victims on how to recognize warning signs and what a person could do to help.

"It's important that you know the resources that are available… offer support," Bardin said.

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Sarah Deer, a law professor and MacArthur Foundation fellow, along with other FVPP staff were honored with a gift for their work in helping with domestic violence issues.

Deer made a donation to MCN FVPP to help victims of domestic violence.

At the end of the event, members of the FVPP Warriors Honor Women male advocacy group recited an inaugural pledge to work to end domestic and sexual violence.

"It's a big step for us as men in protecting our women," FVPP Male Victims Advocate Joe Martel said. "We need to be there to take responsibility for all the actions that the other men take and we need to get the rest of them onboard as well to teach them what domestic and sexual violence is."

For more information about the MCN Family Violence Prevention Program call: 918-732-7827 or 1-800-482-1979.

Council approves over $1 million for myON app

Tiger gives quarterly report

Jessica McBride/*Editorial Assistant*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council held a quarterly session Oct. 25 at the Mound Building on the MCN Tribal Complex in Okmulgee.

MCN Principal Chief George Tiger gave an overview of the last quarter at MCN including information about the new MCN Department of Health Dialysis Center in Coweta, Okla., the College of the Muscogee Nation expansion and accreditation, as well as the declaration proclaiming October Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

"I know that we've gone through a period of time when we've been tested as a tribal government… we've been able to overcome many things as Mvskokvlke and I believe we will continue to do that," Tiger said.

• NCR 14-005 Selecting Mary Lee to the board of directors of MCN DME LLC. Reps. Thomas Yahola and Frank Coachman sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

• TR 14-161 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a management system accreditation renewal agreement on behalf of MCNDH. Rep. Dode Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

• TR 14-162 Approving U.S. National Park Service expansion of the geographic boundaries of the Ocmulgee Nation Monument reservation into the Ocmulgee Old Fields traditional cultural property and advocating congressional enactment of pending legislation to authorize said NPS action.

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Annual Pink Party held for breast cancer survivors

MCN patient advocate shares story

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*



MNN/Chelsie Rich
Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health Patient Advocate Robyn Yearby places a pink sash on a fellow survivor at the MCNDH 11th annual Pink Party at the Mvskoke Dome in Okmulgee, Okla.

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Robyn Yearby was diagnosed with breast cancer in April 2010 at the age of 44. Before her diagnosis, Yearby went in for a mammogram every two years.

While she was working on a mobile mammogram unit for the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma in 2010, she decided to go ahead and get a mammogram.

"At first I was not going to get one because I had one the previous year and was going to get one again in January of 2011," Yearby said. "They asked me again and I thought I might as well."

The test showed an irregularity and a biopsy at the University of Baylor in Waco, Texas showed that it was malignant.

"I did this mammogram a lot earlier than what I normally do and thank the Lord I did because who knows how much it would have grown if I would have waited until my normal time," Yearby said.

Yearby, was in shock when she heard her diagnosis. There was a flood of emotions that went through her, not only for herself but also her family.

"I was in shock but it was for my daughter," Yearby said. "I have my daughter and I was scared for her. With me having breast cancer, the risk of her getting it is going to increase. It was very traumatic for my family."

With all of this happening to her, Yearby did not ever feel like giving up or letting cancer defeat her.

"I had a lot of decisions to make," Yearby said. "I never thought about giving up. It is happening to me and that is something I could not change. All I could do was get up the next morning and keep going."

Yearby received a double mastectomy, which is a procedure to remove both breasts.

Yearby thanks her family for the support and feels that others should have the same.

"You will need that support," Yearby said. "Fortunately for

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MvskokeMedia

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MNN/Jessica McBride
Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger addresses the MCN National Council during the Council quarterly session Oct. 25 at the Mound Building on the MCN Tribal Complex in Okmulgee, Okla.

Council

Continued from Page 1

Yahola sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

• TR 14-163 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a business associate agreement with UB Foundation Activities Inc. on behalf of MCNDH. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

• TR 13-164 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a lease-purchase agreement with Univest Capital Inc. on behalf of MCNDH. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

• TR 14-165 Authorizing the principal chief to execute purchase agreements with General Electric Healthcare Company on behalf of MCNDH. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

• TR 14-166 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement between MCN and Indian Health Services for the employment of Matthew D. Olson as commissioned personnel for MCNDH. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

• TR 14-167 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a service agreement on behalf of MCNDH with Werfen USA LLC. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

• TR 14-168 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a maintenance and software license agreement on behalf of MCNDH with Otech Group LLC. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

• TR 14-169 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a lease agreement with the State of Oklahoma ex rel. Department of Transportation. Rep. Joyce Deere sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

• TR 14-170 Approving the absentee counters for the 2014 special primary and general elections to fill the vacant seat of second chief. Rep. Mitch Jack sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

• NCA 14-150 Authorizing a $1,288.76 special appropriation to a Muscogee (Creek) citizen. Jack sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

• NCA 14-155 Amending NCA 13-260 (A law of the MCN authorizing a special appropriation to the Glenpool Creek Indian Community.) Rep. Johnnie Greene sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

• NCA 14-161 Authorizing a $1,259 special appropriation for a Muscogee (Creek) youth. Greene sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

• NCA 14-162 Authorizing a $5,000 special appropriation for a Muscogee (Creek) youth. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

• NCA 14-164 Authorizing a $2,000 donation to a political candidate. Greene sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

• NCA 14-165 Authorizing a $1,119,290 supplemental appropriation for the MCN Department of Education and Training. The appropriation will continue the community-wide reading program through myON. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 10-4 with Reps. Pete Beaver, James Jennings, Deere and Coachman voting against it.

• NCA 14-166 Authorizing the expenditure of the $33,000 Diabetes NB3F grant award by MCNDH. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

• NCA 14-167 Authorizing a $1,000 special appropriation to Middle Creek #2 Baptist Church. Reps. Robert Hufft and David Hill sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

• NCA 14-168 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement between MCN and Morris Public Schools and to expend $275,000 for the preparation of plans, specifications, engineer's estimate and construction of the Morris Walking Trail project. Deere sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

• NCA 14-169 Amending NCA 13-318 (A law of the MCN authorizing a special appropriation to assist a Muscogee (Creek) student with education expenses.) Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

• NCA 14-170 Creating new law in Title 18, Section 2-106, entitled 'Emergency Scholarship Fund' to assist Muscogee (Creek) citizens attempting to complete their education. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

• NCA 14-171 Authorizing a $250,000 appropriation to the MCN Higher Education Emergency Scholarship Fund. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

• NCA 14-172 Authorizing the expenditure of $267,000 grant funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Indian Community Development Block Grant awarded to the MCN Department of Commerce to provide microenterprise loans to eligible tribal members to start a business and appropriating leveraged resource match. Hufft sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

• NCA 14-173 Authorizing the expenditure of $150,000 grant funds from the Native American Community Development Financial Institution Assistance Program (NACA Program) awarded to the MCNDC to provide program development, program support and staff development. Hufft sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

• NCA 14-174 Authorizing a $250 special appropriation to a Muscogee (Creek) youth. Rep. Lucian Tiger sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

• NCA 14-175 Authorizing a $250 special appropriation to a Muscogee (Creek) citizen. Tiger sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

• NCA 14-176 Authorizing a $14,785.40 special appropriation to Twin Hills Indian Community for the purchase of a power generator at the Twin Hills Convenience Plaza. Jennings sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

• NCA 14-177 Amending NCA 13-266 (A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation creating new law in Title 43, Titled Oil and Gas.) Jack sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

• NCA 14-178 Amending NCA 13-200 (A law of the MCN approving and authorizing the principal chief to execute and file the articles of organization with the Office of the Secretary of the Nation to form 'Onefire Holding Company, LLC' under the MCN Limited Liability Company Act and approving the operating agreement for OHC) as amended by NCA 14-080. Rep. David Nichols, which passed 14-0.

• NCA 14-179 Authorizing the principal chief to expend $500,000 proceeds of sale funds for the start-up operation of the MCN Structural Insulated Panels Manufacturing Plant. The amendment was sponsored by Nichols, Coachman, Yahola, Hill and Hufft, which passed 14-0.

• NCA 14-181 Creating an MCN Public Relations Department revolving fund account for the expenditure of all departmental income. Jennings sponsored the amendment, which passed 9-5 with Reps. Mark Randolph, Tiger, Barnett, Beaver and Jack voting against it.

• NCA 14-182 Authorizing a $2,000 donation to a political candidate. Beaver and Jennings sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

• NCA 14-183 Creating new law in Title 37, Section 2-901, entitled 'Comprehensive Annual Budget Requirements for Inclusion with New Programs.' Reps. Shirlene Ade and Jennings sponsored the amendment, which passed 13-0. Barnett abstained.

• NCA 14-184 Amending Title 37, Chapter 3 and establishing a new Title 37, Chapter 3, Subchapter 10, entitled 'Sexual Harassment Prohibited.' Reps. Adam Jones, Randolph, Beaver, Coachman, Greene, Hill, Hufft, Jennings, Nichols, Tiger and Yahola sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

• NCA 14-185 Authorizing a $250 special appropriation to a Muscogee (Creek) youth. Jack sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

• NCA 14-186 Authorizing a $156,486.36 special appropriation for the election board to conduct a special election. Jack sponsored the amendment, which passed 11-3 with Jones, Tiger and Barnett voting against it.

Ade was absent.

Phillip Coon biography in the works



MNN File Photo

Kast gives insight about upcoming book

Chelsie Rich/*Project Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — In 2013, Muscogee (Creek) citizen Phillip Coon was honored at Veterans Night during the Women's College World Series in Oklahoma City where Sherry Kast, owner of Kast Publishing was in attendance.

Coon was honored for a survivor of the Bataan Death March, a forced 60-mile march of U.S. and Filipino prisoners, by the Japanese Military that resulted in the death of thousands of captured soldiers.

Kast heard Coon's story and was inspired to write a book over his journey in life.

"I was just so inspired by him," Kast said. "The reaction from the crowd, as you could imagine, was instant and it was non-stop. They just so admired what he had done for the country."

Kast has worked in public relations, journalism and has been writing for over 25 years.

"One of the things I like to do, is help people tell their stories," Kast said. "It's creative for me; it's an outlet."

Four years ago, Kast started writing and publishing books as a hobby; and soon established Kast Publishing LLC.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Council unanimously approved NCA 14-070 during the May 17 regular session, appropriating $7,500 to Kast Publishing to fund the biography.

Kast began researching information about Coon and was able to speak with him before he passed away June 23 at 95-years of age.

"I interviewed him and I got a lot of information on his childhood and the days at the Euchee Boarding School," Kast said. "I think meeting him is something that has changed my life."

Kast's other sources were interviews with his son Michael Coon and other family members, friends, people who knew Coon from Haskell Indian School and POW survivors.

Kast has also read many books about the Bataan Death March and POW camps.

"I got first-hand research, personal research, others who have known Mr. Coon and then a lot of reading about what he would of gone through," Kast said.

Kast hopes to have the book completed in spring 2015.

Besides writing for Kast Publishing, Kast also works for Express Employment Professionals as the corporate communications marketing public relations manager, lives in Norman, Okla., and is a citizen of the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians.

‘Warriors’ spread awareness, make a difference



MNN/Chelsie Rich

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Family Violence Prevention Program Victims Advocate Tania Bardin and Male Advocate Joe Martel speak Oct. 14 during a Warriors Honor Women event at the College of the Muscogee Nation in Okmulgee, Okla., to inform attendees about domestic violence and harmful behaviors.

Advocates show support, provide foundation for victims

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Sitting in the courtroom waiting on your name to be called for your hearing; you start to feel eyes upon you, staring, glaring. Fear comes over you as your breathing starts to quicken.

You look to where you felt the stares coming from and see the source. The person you are getting a protective order on will not take their eyes off of you.

Fear has settled in and all you want to do is leave until you see another person step in. They sat down in between your attacker and you. The fear is gone and a feeling of reassurance sets in as a sense of strength returns.

That is a part of what the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Family Violence Prevention Program does. FVPP provides advocacy and services to support victims of domestic and dating violence, sexual assault and stalking.

“We want to be able to give support to any victims that come to us,” FVPP Director Shawn Partridge said. “The victim needs to know that they are not alone and they have the support.”

These advocates could be considered protectors, supporters, allies and warriors. While this department is going above the call of duty to help victims, they are recruiting others to help as well.

Last August, FVPP wanted to do something to help get more men involved in spreading domestic violence awareness.

“This is no secret that domestic violence can affect everyone. We have a group of men here who are taking a stand.”

- MCN FVPP Male Advocate Joe Martel

The movement is called Warriors Honor Women.

“We had started our meetings and over time, it started to gain more interest from men to become a part of this movement,” Partridge said.

Since then, Joe Martel has been brought on to work with FVPP as the male advocate. The department felt that they needed to expand from the ‘engaging men’ movement to WHW.

The group meets once a month to discuss how they can help bring awareness to the public on what domestic violence can do.

“This is no secret that domestic violence can affect everyone,” Martel said. “We have a group of men here who are taking a stand.”

Currently, the WHW have over 40 men who work together to make a difference.

Partridge explained the important and vital role men play in combating domestic violence and violence against women.

“It is important and very critical for all men to help and combat against domestic and sexual violence,” Partridge said. “We are very excited to see the movement growing and Joe is doing such a great job in keeping it moving forward.”

Martel talked about how the men in the WHW are striving to be better at taking action against these types of violence.

“The men in this group are committing to educate and improve themselves to help get the awareness out against domestic violence,” Martel said.

For more information about WHW, contact: 918-732-7979.

Pink

Continued from Page 1



MNN/Chelsie Rich

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health hosted the Pink Party for survivors of breast cancer to raise awareness and provide information.

me, I had my family to provide that emotional and mental support to help me get through this experience.”

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health held the 11th annual Pink Party, Oct. 29, at the Mvskoke Dome building on the Claude A. Cox Omniplex in Okmulgee. Along with Yearby, several other breast and other cancer survivors were in attendance.

“We are not only survivors, we are fighters and warriors. As a fighter, you fought it and you are still able to hug your children and your family.”

- Breast Cancer Survivor Robyn Yearby

“It was amazing seeing all the survivors in attendance for the Pink Party,” MCNDH Chief Operating Officer Rhonda Beaver said. “It was such an inspiration to see all of them wearing their pink sashes that said ‘survivor.’ ”

Beaver felt that the Pink Party shows that there are people that have had cancer, fought it and are still going strong.

“Cancer is not a death sentence,” Beaver said. “That is why we have this party; to spread breast cancer awareness and to explain the importance of getting a mammogram and early detection of breast cancer.”

Booths featuring representatives from different MCN departments and other entities were on hand to pass out information from their programs.

Yearby stressed the importance of having a mammogram.

“There is discomfort and pain that go with having a mammogram but it is worth it,” Yearby said. “I am glad that I went ahead and had my mammogram then instead of waiting for my normal time. Who knows how much the cancer would have spread if I waited.”

Yearby also had encouragement for other cancer survivors.

“We are not only survivors; we are fighters and warriors,” Yearby said. “As a fighter, you fought it and you are still able to hug your children and your family.”

For more information on breast cancer go to: www.nationalbreastcancer.org/breast-cancer-facts.

MCN TR hosts Council Oak Ceremony



MNN/Chelsie Rich

Event held to honor the past

Chelsie Rich/*Project Specialist*

TULSA, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) Nation officials, employees, ceremonial leaders and citizens gathered Oct. 25 at the MCN Council Oak Park in Tulsa for the 2014 Council Oak Ceremony hosted by the MCN Tourism and Recreation Department.

“Each year, we bring our traditional people here together and have a nice little commemoration as far as recognizing our traditional people,” said MCN Principal Chief George Tiger.

The ceremony pays tribute to the Locvpokv people that were removed from their Alabama homelands in 1834 and arrived in Indian Territory around 1836.

“It’s our commemorative ceremony to the Council Oak Tree,” said TR Director William Lowe. “As we all know, in the Muscogee (Creek) culture, the ceremonial ashes were carried amongst the removal on the Trails of Tears.”

In an act proclaiming their arrival and establishing their new home, the Locvpokv placed ashes from the original fires at the base of a towering oak tree located on a hill overlooking the Arkansas River and brought to life a new fire.

The site of the Council Oak Tree was first used for ceremonies, meetings, feasts and games.

“It’s an honor for us in Tourism and Recreation to be given the task to plan and kick this ceremony off and invite all the ceremonial grounds out to this particular event,” Lowe said.

Although lives were lost along the way, the tree still stands tall; serving as a memorial.

“We have a nice program that Will’s had in terms with the traditional part of it. We have our ceremonial people here that we recognize… It’s a nice event. I’m glad we do it every year,” Tiger said.

MCN Council Oak Park was once referred to as Tulsa’s first city hall and was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1992.

“The Muscogee (Creek) Nation is one of three tribes, Nations that share a common boarder inside the city limits of Tulsa; so this is an important part of our heritage and of our history,” said Tulsa Mayor Dewey Bartlett.

Mvskoke language program trains speakers how to teach



MNN/Darren DeLaune

'Train the Trainer' helps to keep language alive

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A language training was held Oct. 22 at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Education and Training Building.

‘Train the Trainer’ was hosted by the Mvskoke Language Preservation Program to help preserve the Mvskoke language.

“We are very happy with the turnout of people who want to help preserve the language,” LPP Language Specialist Minnie Proctor said. “This shows that we are wanting to keep our language alive.”

The focus of the event was to train those who want to begin teaching the Mvskoke language. The one-day training offered teaching tips.

“We asked for fluent speakers to come out and help us in our training today,” Proctor said. “This program was for anyone that wanted to learn how to train and be able to take what they were taught today home with them.”

The program believes that MCN is in danger of losing its language and that this will result in the loss of Mvskoke culture.

“Our language is the backbone of our Nation,” Proctor said. “We need it here to keep our culture going strong.”

LPP invited Mvskoke speakers who are interested in preserving the language by becoming a trainer.

“We want this training to start helping our citizens to learn the language,” Proctor said. “We cannot be everywhere so having some of our citizens show up will help us out at the program.”

LPP plans to hold the next ‘Train the Trainer’ for early 2015.

MCN Indian Fall Festival promotes family fun



MNN/Chelsie Rich

Children decorate pumpkins at the 2nd annual Indian Fall Festival Nov. 1 at the Claude Cox Omniplex in Okmulgee, Okla. Festivities included art, live music and cultural exhibitions.

Artists exhibit craftsmanship

Jessica McBride/*Editorial Assistant*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The fall chill made an appearance just in time for the 2nd annual Indian Fall Festival held Nov. 1, at the Claude A. Cox Omniplex in Okmulgee.

The event was free to the public. Attendees enjoyed a variety of activities including: softball, pumpkin painting, live music and cultural exhibitions.

According to the MCN press release, the Indian Fall Festival was revived last year under guidance from MCN Principal Chief George Tiger.

Lowe said that children's activities, athletic tournaments and music were added to the festival this year.

"The main thing this year is the Kid's Corner and more of the activities based around the kids; actual hands on stuff," MCN Tourism and Recreation Director William Lowe said.

Lowe believed that this year's festival had something for everyone.

The Frybread Championship Cookoff sparked the interest of cooks across the nation.

"I've gotten over 50 inquiries," TR Coordinator Molly Moore said.

Ten contestants competed for the chance to call their frybread the best. Carol Tiger took home the bragging rights and the $1,000 prize.

Native artists displayed and sold their jewelry, pottery and artwork.

Cherokee Nation citizen Rodslen Brown came to the Indian Fall Festival to feature her woven baskets and meet others who enjoy her passion.

"I really enjoy art… and I think it's more spiritual than anything," Brown said. "I get to meet different people… how they feel about just life and their work."

Brown, who is also Muscogee (Creek), promoted her non-profit organization Project A.

Project A targets high risk children and provides hands-on training in work ethics and decision-making skills through agricultural, athletic and art activities.

Brown said that the organization focuses on keeping children active so that they do not become a statistic of the judicial system.

"I want to get kids involved," Brown said. "I just wish more of the youngsters get involved."

Brown feels that art can help Native children understand their heritage and that attending art festivals would benefit them.

"I feel like even the children, if they get more involved, they'll know where they came from and they'll get a better; I guess; perspective on life," Brown said.

For more information about Project A, contact Rodslen Brown at: 918-683-2753, or by email: projectamuskogee@yahoo.com.

'The Dawes Commission' premiers at Okmulgee theater

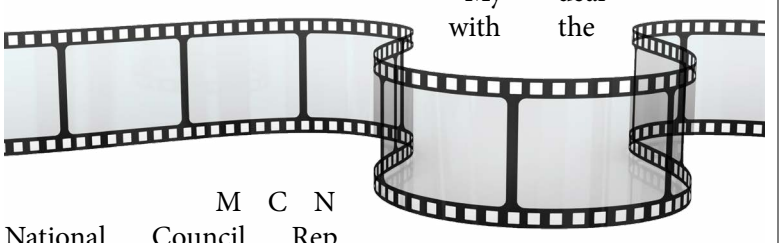
Hicks presents film to local community

Amanda Rutland/*Media Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The lights of the Orpheum Theater marquis illuminated the streets as moviegoers filtered inside to escape the autumn chill. The smell of popcorn permeated the air.

Photos of 'The Dawes Commission' cast and crew were displayed in the lobby.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Cultural Center and Archives Department partnered with Mvskoke Entertainment LLC to show three free screenings of 'The Dawes Commission' film Nov. 1-2, in downtown Okmulgee.



MCN National Council Rep. Frank Coachman introduced the film to the audience. The film ran approximately 40 minutes and ended with applause from the crowd.

The film's director Bob Hicks and producer Sandy Denney, along with the cast were present for a question and answer session after the film.

Coachman introduced the cast and assisted in taking questions from the audience.

One audience member had a comment about the film.

"I want to commend you guys for actually having a film that is in our Native language."

Cast member Randy Belford, who plays Dawes Commission Agent Phillip Hopkins said his experience with both the play and the film has been eye-opening.

"It has made me look around the place I live and the people around me differently now that I know this much about how we got to be in relation to these different peoples and the land that we are living on," Belford said.

Another audience member asked if Hicks had plans to make any more films.

Hicks said currently all of his attention is focused on preparing for the upcoming premier of the play at the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C., during the Mvskoke Etvlwv: the Muscogee People Festival Nov. 14-16.

"I am looking at doing another project after we get back and I am kind of concentrating on the Indian Removal Act of 1830s. I am doing some research on that," Hicks said.

Audience member Alicia Mitchell asked if the film would be available to purchase.

"My deal with the tribe when they gave me the money to make this movie, was that once we were finished with the movie… I was going to give the movie to the tribe," Hicks said. "Then, it's going to be up to the tribe to figure out how to distribute it."

Coachman spoke on behalf of the Council about film distribution.

"Yes, we will make that available sometime as soon as we figure out how to distribute it," Coachman said.

'The Dawes Commission' has been submitted for an Academy Award.

Hicks said the film would be delivered to the Nation after the results of the Oscars have been released. The nominations for the Oscars will not be announced until early next year.

For more information abaout the film contact Mvskoke Entertainment at: 918-577-5501.

SCUMC hosts Veterans Day program



MNN/Amanda Rutland

Salt Creek United Methodist Church hosted the second annual Honoring Veterans program Nov. 1, near Holdenville, Okla.; which included a 21-gun salute, gift bags and a dinner live music and cultural exhibitions.

Veterans honored with event and dinner

Amanda Rutland/*Media Specialist*

HOLDENVILLE, Okla. — Salt Creek United Methodist Church held the second annual Honoring Veterans program Nov. 1.

The event was organized by the ladies of the church and included: the posting of the colors by the Seminole Nation Honor Guard, Mvskoke language hymns and bagpipe music by Kent Pharoah.

SCUMC church member Kim Brown said the church felt there was a need to recognize veterans.

"We have a lot of veterans that come out of our church; not only recent, [but] way back," Brown said. "We just kind of felt like we needed to do something to recognize everybody here in our community."

Brown said that Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Rep. Dode Barnett helped SCUMC make the contacts needed to make the event possible. One of those contacts being the guest speaker.

"There is no braver man in the world than that man who is willing to fight for another man's children… We always have been and always will be vanguard of the land."

- MCN VASO Director Ken Davis

Guest speaker MCN Veterans Affairs Service Office Director Ken Davis introduced the veterans by branch and conflict. Davis, on behalf of the veterans, conveyed thanks for the invitation and that they were not looking for accolades.

"Matters are best accomplished quietly. We are a very quiet group. We don't look for our picture to be taken; for interviews," Davis said. "There is no braver man in the world than that man who is willing to fight for another man's children… We always have been and always will be vanguard of the land."

Later in the program, all attending veterans were presented with a gift bag from the church and attendees were allowed to share experiences and comments.

Pharoah told a story about Capt. Johnny Michal Spann, the first soldier to die after the attacks on Sept. 11, 2001.

"Capt. Mike Spann 25 years forever young; Winfield, Ala. Gave his life. The first casualty in America, on the War on Terrorism after Sept. 11." Pharoah said.

Pharoah explained that once a bagpipe player Marsha Bell of Alexandria, Va. heard of Spann's death she wrote a song for him titled 'Mike Spann'. Then Pharoah played that song.

Some church members had chosen to remember deceased veterans by sharing their names.

The program concluded with a 21-gun salute and a dinner.

CRD holds fall quarterly session

Meeting aimed at helping communities understand laws

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

TULSA, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Community Research and Development Department held a quarterly session Oct. 24 at the MCN Tulsa Creek Indian Community Center in Tulsa.

Quarterly meetings are a requirement of the MCN Code Annotated Title 11, which regulates communities.

"This is a requirement," CRD Director Floyd Jones said. "We have to put on four quarterly sessions each year and this is our fall session."

The topics that were discussed in the fall session were the MCN Constitution and how it applies to the Nation and the MCN communities.

"This is a critical time of the year with the elections going on," Jones said. "Our department has been busy in working with the communities for their elections and constitutions."

According to Jones, communities need to know the regulations that govern the communities. He believes understanding what the MCN Constitution says is important for all citizens, as well as understanding what their community constitutions say.

"This allows the community to be expedient in how they conduct their meetings," Jones said.

The guest speaker for the session was MCN Assistant Attorney General JoEtta Toppah.

"The communities need to have that understanding of what their constitutions do and also the tribe's constitutions," Toppah said. "I am hoping this is a gateway to understand and to find resources for any kind of problems or issues that may arise in the communities."

Ultimately, CRD wants make sure that each and every citizen has an understanding of how the constitution impacts them.

"Knowledge is power," Jones said. "It is better to get the information and be able to have a full grasp of what the information is about. We want the citizens to know what they are learning and be able to answer any questions that they have."

LPD, counties work together to respond to emergencies



Shutterstock

Agreements ensure timely, appropriate response

Jessica McBride/*Editorial Assistant*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Since grade school, it is ingrained in us that we should dial 911 in the event of an emergency. However, in all cases within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation jurisdiction, this may not be the only number available for assistance.

MCN Lighthorse Police Department and county emergency dispatch centers work together to ensure that each emergency is handled and each entity is notified of incidents that occur in each other's jurisdiction.

On the county side, if an individual contacts 911 and states that the incident occurred on tribal land, the dispatcher forwards the call to the Lighthorse dispatch unit.

Okmulgee County 911 Director Kasey Johnson said that they receive a handful of calls on a three-month basis in which the caller requests LPD assistance.

"If they do not indicate it, whatever agency their jurisdiction falls in not knowing it's tribal land, we send out that department," Johnson said.

Once the dispatched officer responds, if the property is deemed to be in LPD jurisdiction, the officer will contact his dispatch to inform Lighthorse.

"We haven't had any problems with it being like that," Johnson said. "We've not had any issues… of course if it's a life or death situation and they don't tell us, we're definitely going to go and they're going to stay there til we get everyone there that's needed."

A map of MCN jurisdictional areas may seem like a quick and easy guide for non-tribal law enforcement, however, LPD Chief Richard Fixico said this is not the case.

"What may be in restricted yesterday may not be today. What may not have been yesterday may be today," Fixico said. "You know; it just all changes quite often so I just don't know how current that map would constantly be with the changing status."

Fixico said that most counties work in a similar fashion to Okmulgee County.

During office hours, LPD may contact the MCN Realty Office to help determine if land is in trust, restricted or tribally owned.

The title of trust land is held by the U.S. first, for the benefit of the individual or entity listed on the title document. Most trust land within the MCN jurisdiction is assigned to the Nation.

Restricted land is the original allotment owned by citizens who meet the requirements. Trust and restricted land are not taxed.

Tribally owned land is fee simple land in which the Nation is listed as the owner of record. This land is taxable.

LPD officers focus on restricted and trust property, but will sometimes respond to incidents on fee simple land owned by the tribe.

"…but if it's not restricted or trust we normally notify whatever agency has jurisdiction there, whether it be the county or the city and make them aware of the situation; and if they choose not to come out with our cross-deputization agreement, then we'll work up a case and submit it to the DA's office," Fixico said.

LPD has cross-deputization agreements with all of the counties within the MCN jurisdiction except Tulsa, Okfuskee and Creek Counties.

With the agreement, in the event an officer from the other jurisdiction is in close range to an incident, they may be asked to respond.

For example, if an Okmulgee County officer was in the area of an incident and could respond before a LPD officer could get to the scene; he may be asked to respond.

"Basically in that particular situation, he's acting as a Lighthorseman," Fixico said.

A similar incident occurred Sept. 1 when a LPD officer responded to a request by a county deputy to search for a vehicle driving on the wrong side of the highway on I-40 in Okmulgee County.

The officer responded and discharged his weapon. The incident is still under investigation.

"…it's basically when the officer notified my officer or my officer became aware of a situation and the deputy requested his assistance," Fixico said.

Currently, cross-deputization agreements with Okfuskee and Muskogee Counties are in the approval process. Once approved by the MCN Attorney General and the Oklahoma Office of the Attorney General, the MCN National Council will pass a resolution for final approval.

At the end of the day, both agencies pledge to err on the side of caution and work together to protect individuals who reside within the MCN jurisdiction.

"Our dispatch agency and Creek Nation have worked very well together," Johnson said. "We're all here for the same purpose."

To contact the MCN Lighthorse Police Department for an emergency, call: 877-547-3390.



Housing discusses recent updates

Pilot project to help expedite waiting list

Jessica McBride/*Editorial Assistant*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Recently, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Housing Department unveiled new programs and is developing more to accommodate citizens on the waiting list for homes.

Customer service

Administrative Manager Brant Beaver has been charged with improving the rapport between citizens and the department.

"One of the reasons he's been brought into this is customer service," MCN Housing Department Executive Director Brad Fox said.

Fox hopes to provide a friendly atmosphere and better information for citizens. The department is working on ways to communicate departmental and process updates to citizens and take a proactive approach to addressing their housing needs.

"Really our goal is to put as many Creek citizens into affordable, safe houses as possible," Beaver said. "The faster we can get it done, the more people we can help."

Pilot project

On Sept. 27, the MCN National Council passed TR 14-155 approving the 184 Pilot Program policy.

"It's a loan process that's already been in existence for awhile but we've kind of put a new twist on it," Fox said. "It's just a pilot but I think it's something we would like to incorporate eventually."

The pilot project consists of a loan granted to MCN by Bank 2 in which the department will work with citizens to help them qualify to be able to assume the mortgage under their name.

Bank 2 is a community bank owned solely by the Chickasaw Nation.

Citizens can qualify for the project based upon affordability and debt-to-income ratio.

The Housing Department will provide a 30 percent down payment for the purchase of the home, and the loan will be made for the remaining price. The citizen will then make payments for the duration of the loan.

During this time, the Housing Department will provide housing and credit education to the citizen so that they can improve their credit standing and qualify for the note assumption.

In the event that the citizen never qualifies to assume the loan, they will be responsible to pay back the 30 percent down payment.

"Our goal is to get people in homes and establish themselves as homeowners and building their credit," Fox said.

The Housing Department will look to assist up to 20 citizens through this project. The department will begin contacting citizens on the housing waiting list in November for participation in the project.

Emergency housing services

The department has also unveiled a new emergency housing services program to assist citizens who do not meet the requirements to receive assistance for emergency repairs.

"It's a service to citizens that would not otherwise qualify for the privately owned emergency," Housing Services Specialist Lora King said.

Fox said that this program was created to aid citizens who do not qualify for other programs.

"They may not meet the income guidelines. They may not meet the real estate requirements," Fox said.

Fox explained that this may include citizens on fixed-income that spend a large portion of their income on medical expenses, or individuals who own a family home that is going through probate.

The program is designed to provide one-time assistance for health and safety issues.

Insurance requirement

Another change that will occur before the end of the year is the homeowner's insurance requirement.

"Sometime in the month of December, our citizens are going to have to start providing homeowners insurance for anything they need done through housing through our emergency privately owned program," Fox said.

Fox clarified that this is a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development requirement.

In order to have any work on the home completed by the Housing Department, a copy of the insurance policy must be provided during the application process.

"We do have our Community Shield Insurance that's open to anybody for the citizens that need to get homeowner's insurance," King said.

Income guidelines

In September, the department also made a change in the admissions policy. The income guidelines were changed from a minimum gross income of $5,000 per year to a minimum of $15,000 per year.

"That basically means that in order for you to be eligible for homes you have to have an income of $15,000 a year. But that's only for homeownership," Fox said.

Fox stated that this change was for the benefit of the citizens and to make sure they had the ability to pay for utilities and repairs.

"People have got to have income to even own a home or maintain it," Fox said.

According to Fox, the $15,000 minimum income guideline is comparable to some other tribes.

"The $15,000 is also the number that minimum wage pays gross," Fox said.

King encouraged citizens to continue to update their application in the 90-day window so that the correct income is always on file.

Letters will be going out to citizens on the waiting list about the income guideline changes.

"We're not trying to remove anyone from the list. We're going to give everybody an opportunity to come in and redo their stuff," Fox said. "We won't just remove anyone from the list because we changed the policy. You have to give us a chance to work with you and see where you're at."

Fox realizes that these changes will affect some citizens, but stated that the Housing Department has new programs coming in the future to assist citizens according to their needs, income and eligibility and is committed to getting citizens into homes.

"What we're trying to do is provide options to our citizens so when they come in there's several ways to go," Fox said. "We're trying to put more options for people to choose from."

For more information, contact the MCN Housing Department at: 918-549-2500.

Citizen becomes member of honor organization



Submission
Muscogee (Creek) citizen Lexy McCoy has been named a member of Sigma Alpha Lambda, a national leadership and honors organization at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Okla.

McCoy's success sponsored by MCN Higher Education

Chelsie Rich/*Project Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Lexy McCoy has been named a member of Sigma Alpha Lambda, a national leadership and honors organization at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Okla.

McCoy is a sophomore at OSU and lives in Stillwater.

Sigma Alpha Lambda is dedicated to promoting and rewarding academic achievement and providing members with opportunities for community service, personal development and lifelong professional fulfillment.

"We do a lot of community service and go to schools and read," McCoy said. "Do anything we can to help people around Stillwater."

McCoy serves as the vice-president of public relations for Sigma Alpha Lambda.

"I am in charge of letting people know what our service is and basically telling students on campus about our purpose," McCoy said.

A student must have above a 3.9 GPA to be selected for the organization. McCoy was one of 200 students that were invited into the organization this semester.

While at OSU, McCoy has also become a member of the Phi Mu sorority and is majoring in allied health with future plans of becoming a dental hygienist.

"I've been shadowing and it's something that means a lot to me," McCoy said. "I just think it's so interesting and if I could fulfill that and become a dental hygienist, that would mean a lot."

McCoy shared how her father has influenced her life.

"My dad, he definitely works so hard for everything that he does. I have a younger brother… I know he works very hard for the both of us and he wants the best for me and him," McCoy said.

McCoy would like to give recognition to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Higher Education Department for the help they have given her.

"This wouldn't be possible without all the scholarships I've been given," McCoy said.

McCoy received the Tribal Funds Grant that is given to Muscogee (Creek) citizens that are attending an accredited college or university and the Tribal Incentive Grant for citizens who maintain a 3.0 GPA.

"This wouldn't be possible without all the scholarships I've been given."

- Muscogee (Creek) citizen Lexy McCoy

"Thank you to everybody," McCoy said.

In McCoy's spare time she enjoys going on walks, playing with her dog and hanging out with friends.

McCoy is the daughter of Jeff and Charlene McCoy of Stillwater.

Cox writes to keep Native legends alive

Next book to be released in 2015

Jessica McBride/*Editorial Assistant*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — 'The Spencer Rifle' by Muscogee (Creek) citizen Jessie Cox tells the story of fictional characters set during the Civil War era in Indian Territory.

"A lot of people don't know about the Five Civilized Tribes' involvement in the U.S. Civil War. It's hard to find anything on it," Cox said.

The story takes place at Elkhorn Tavern in Pea Ridge, Ark.

According to a press release about the novel, "The Cox family built and owned Elkhorn Tavern until the State of Arkansas bought it at 'fair market value' and donated it to the U.S. Parks Department."

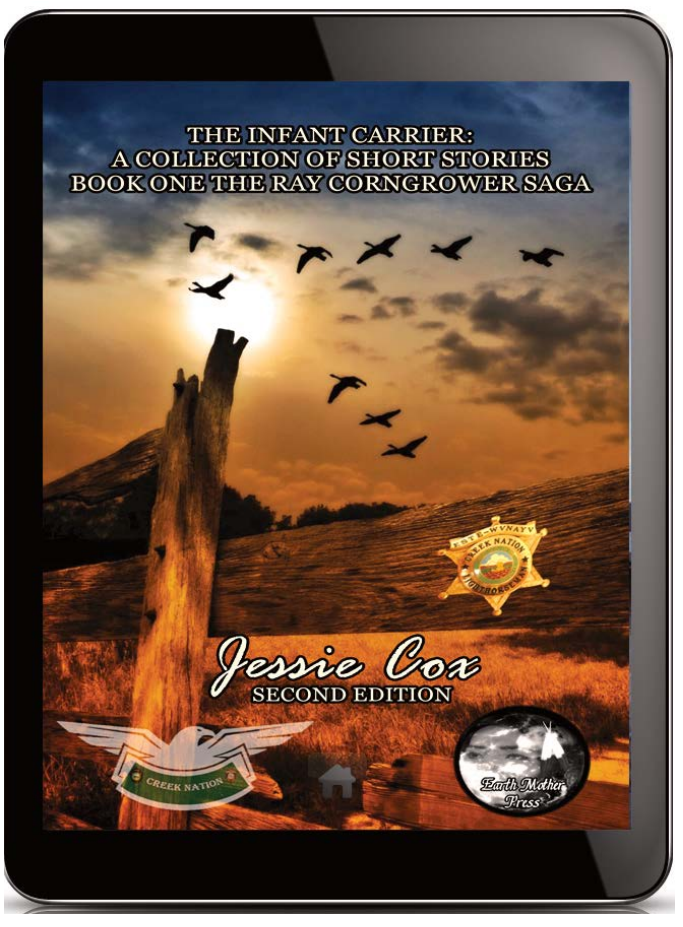
Cox began his writing career after a disappointing reading experience.

"A long time ago, I was reading a book and it was completely awful… I threw it across the room and said, 'you know; I can write better than that.' And a little voice said, 'why don't you?' " Cox said.

'The Spencer Rifle' is Cox's eighth published novel.

The next book in 'The Spencer Rifle' series is set for release in 2015.

Cox has written seven books as part of the 'Ray Corngrower Saga,' several of which are set in Bristow, Okla. One character in the series works as a MCN Lighthorse police officer.



In his books, Cox combines Native legends and fictional characters.

He incorporates the legends of the vampire U'tiun'ta', or Spear Finger, the forest people and old coyote.

"I'm taking the Native legends, the old forgotten ones… My main purpose in writing that first series was to keep the old legends alive," Cox said.

Cox was recently picked up by Celestial Waters Publishing.

He believes that many would enjoy reading his work.

"I would hate to write a book that people didn't like," Cox said. "And second of all, I guess for the residual knowledge that I am putting into the books. I talk a lot about the Native culture."

Cox has a background in the military and law enforcement; and started his writing career by writing columns and articles, eventually graduating to short stories and novels.

He hopes that his work will inspire future writers.

"Do not give up," Cox said. "I could plaster a wall with rejection notices."

Cox suggests that writers be authentic and write about what they know.

Cox's books can be purchased at: www.authorjessiecox.com or www.amazon.com.

Muscogee (Creek) citizen earns Commandant's Trophy



Submission
Muscogee (Creek) citizen Lance Cpl. John Bates is awarded the Commandant's Trophy Oct. 11 on the University of Oklahoma campus in Norman, Okla.

Bates presses towards goal

Jessica McBride/*Editorial Assistant*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — For six weeks in July and August, Lance Cpl. John Bates woke up at 0500 hours every morning for an hour of running and darting through obstacle courses.

He received five minutes to scarf down breakfast and was rushed off to the day's stamina and leadership courses along with more physical training.

The rigorous daily activities came to a close and it was lights out at 2100 hours.

But just because the schedule calls for sleep, Bates still had prep work to complete.

"As officers, you need to know how to budget your time. You need to know what your main objectives are for the next day," Bates said. "Even though technically you can go to sleep, they want you to know that you still have other responsibilities… you still have to prep your uniforms.

"You still have to prep your gear. You still have to get everything ready for the next day."

Bates is part of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves and has been selected to attend the Platoon Leaders Class at the Marine Officer Candidates School in Quantico, Va.

Bates was the company commander for the last week of training; where he supervised his peers and committed himself to letting everyone go ahead of him.

He said that 119 of the 210 original selectees from around the U.S. finished part one of the PLC.

PLC consists of two six-week sessions for concurrently enrolled undergraduate college students in the hopes that a handful of them will be chosen to become commissioned officers.

Bates has completed the first session and is eligible attend the second session in two years.

"It's not an automatic for him to graduate. It's not an automatic for him to become commissioned," Muscogee (Creek) Nation Veterans Affairs Services Office Director Ken Davis said.

In order to be selected for PLC, individuals must submit medical records, and pass a background check and physical test. Enlisted marines must also receive letters of recommendation from prominent military and government officials.

"I think what we're trying to stress here is a huge, huge process of selection. I mean, it's a tough process," Davis said.

According to Davis, if Bates completes the second PLC course and is selected to become a second lieutenant; he will be the sixth Muscogee (Creek) citizen in the 236 years USMC has been in existence to become a commissioned officer.

On Oct. 11, Bates received the Commandant's Trophy for his performance at PLC. The trophy is given to the highest officer-candidate.

Bates finished the course with a 3.2 GPA on a 4.0 scale and earned a perfect score of 300 on the physical fitness test.

"I'm not surprised at all that he's the number one graduate. I'm not; I'm just not. I expect him to be the number one graduate two years from now," Davis said.

Bates completed his three-mile run in 17 minutes and five seconds. His best time is 16 minutes, 55 seconds.

Bates is a sophomore at the University of Oklahoma in Norman, Okla., and is majoring in communications.

He is scheduled to graduate in May 2017. If chosen as an officer, Bates will also be commissioned at that time.

"I think he has all the attributes to go all the way," Davis said. "Upon his graduation and especially upon his commissioning… there's going to be probably two buses full of Muscogee Marines going down there… we will be there."

In his spare time, Bates works at Red Lobster.

He enlisted in the USMCR in July 2012 as a TOW gunner.

Bates was drawn to the 'best of the best' mentality of the Marines. However he was not satisfied with just being a Marine; he wanted to push himself to become an officer.

Bates said that having experience as an enlisted Marine will help him in his pursuit of being an officer.

"Doing that I was able to get experience from the enlisted side and get respect from how they're treated and how they work," Bates said. "Being enlisted definitely has given me a much greater respect for how enlisted Marines do things."

Bates hopes that if he becomes an officer, he can portray the high standard set by USMC.

"Leadership by example. I want to be able to be the officer that's out there who all the other Marines want to be like," Bates said. "I want them to see me and see that I'm the example that they should follow."

His mother, Kimberly Burggraf, said that Bates has always taken pride in everything he does.

"He's always excelled up above everybody in school, academics, BMX, wrestling, everything. He's always pushed himself to be the best," Burggraf said.

John Bates is a member of the Bird Clan and his parents are Kimberly Burggraf and James Bates.

Veterans of valor: Joseph Hicks



MNN/Amanda Rutland
Muscogee (Creek) citizen Joseph Hicks saw it as his duty to join the military the day after Sept. 11, 2001.

A military tradition

Amanda Rutland/*Media Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Most American adults remember Sept. 11, 2001 and how the nation changed that day. For Muscogee (Creek) citizen Joseph Hicks, the events of Sept. 11, prompted him to enlist in the U.S. Army the following day.

In 2001, Hicks was a 21-year-old resident of Tiger Mountain near Henryetta, Okla., who worked as a special needs teacher aide and spent time participating in rodeos.

Several members of Hicks' family had served in the military including his maternal uncle and his father, Louis Hicks; who fought in Vietnam with the 134th Assault Helicopter Company as a door gunner.

Hicks said he saw Sept. 11 as an opportunity to carry on the family tradition.

"Every single one of our family members, we all volunteered. None of us were drafted," Hicks said. "I felt to myself, that it was something that I needed to take part in. Everybody else in my family had had their wars; it was time for myself to carry it on and have mine."

After completing basic training at Fort Benning, Ga., Hicks chose to go to Fort Campbell located astride the Kentucky-Tennessee border.

Fort Campbell had a high deployment rate. I knew they were really likely to be deployed out because they are one of the largest units with in the army," Hicks said.

Hicks was in Kuwait with the 101st Airborne, Second Battalion of the 502nd, when former President George W. Bush declared war on Iraq March 19, 2003; after which, they proceeded into Iraq.

"Our unit was the first wave in," Hicks said. "The state of Iraq for that time, it was hostile… It was chaos. You had the good days; you had bad days."

Hicks said they never knew if the Iraqis were really friendly or just pretending to be.

"You could sit down and talk with them during the day or they would talk to you as you were walking through the streets on patrol," Hicks said. "When it became nighttime and you couldn't see them; that's when they would have pop shots at you or they would shoot RPGs (rocket-propelled grenade) at you."

Hicks explained that they were always watchful.

"With the IEDs (improvised explosive device), you couldn't see them. You didn't know where they were. They would bury them and cover them with trash, which trash was everywhere," Hicks said.

During his year in Iraq, Hicks alternated between the weapons squad and regular infantry. Hicks said the only difference was that the weapons squad carried bigger guns.

Near the end of Hicks' tour in Iraq, the U.S. had taken over the banks to get Iraq financially back on track.

Hicks said that they had been guarding the banks. While Attempting to return to base an IED exploded after taking supplies to the last bank.

"The streets were nasty and so you never knew what was under anything, but we were getting on the main route and that's when they blew up the IED next to our Humvee," Hicks said. "All I remember was there was a big flash of light, loud and everything was just like slow motion. Then, with in just a couple seconds, it all picked back up."

The IED didn't detonate under the vehicle, but beside it, causing shrapnel to fly into the Humvee.

"Our Humvees weren't like the ones you see on TV that are armored up and everything. These were the regular old Humvees that had a cab on it and a bed and we road around in the back of the open bed," Hicks said.

There were six people in the vehicle, the driver, passenger and four soldiers in the back. Hicks was riding on top of the cab as a guard.

The force of the explosion pushed him to the bed of the Humvee. He was hot with shrapnel in the face and neck as was the driver and passenger.

Hicks was awarded the Purple Heart for being wounded. He said he did not feel he needed a ceremony for it.

"One of our buddies, whenever we were in Fallujah, he had gotten killed. Getting killed, you receive a purple heart automatically," Hicks said. "He didn't get to have a ceremony for his; so why should I have a ceremony for just a few shrapnel pieces?"

Hicks said that after coming home, life went on the same as before he was deployed.

Hicks is a member of Arbeka Tribal Town and the Deer Clan.

"Everybody else in my family had had their wars, it was time for myself to carry it on and have mine."

- Muscogee (Creek) citizen Joseph Hicks



Attention Attention

Higher Education Scholarship Foundation Program

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Higher Education Scholarship Foundation Program is now accepting applications for the 2015 spring semester.

Deadline is December 1, 2014

Applications can be found at creeknationfoundation.org

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation
Higher Education Scholarship Foundation Program
P.O. Box 580 Okmulgee, OK 74447
Phone: 918-732-7754 Fax: 918-732-7756

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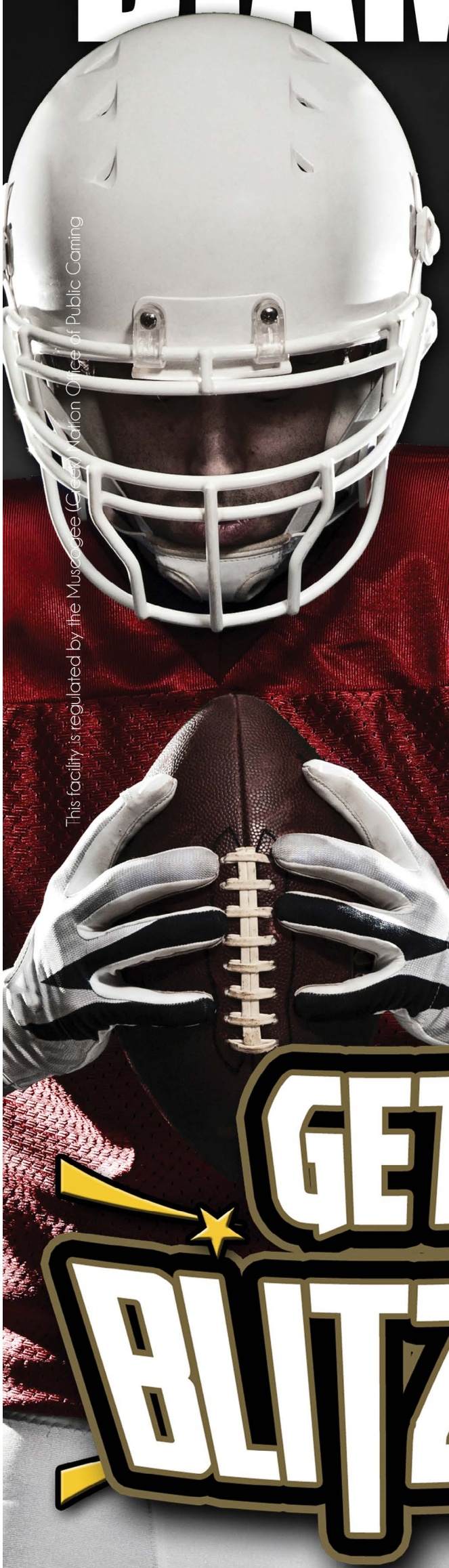
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Loop 56 and Highway 75 (Education and Training Building)
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Okmulgee, OK 74447
918-549-2964

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http://www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov/Pages/Tero/teroappforms.html

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FREE WIFI

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE CREEK NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

DISTRICT COURT FILED
2014 SEP 15 PM 3 41
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION DONNA BEAVER COURT CLERK

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Plaintiff,	)	
vs.	)	**Case No.: CV 2014-**
(1) Marlin 60SS .22 Stainless Model/ Greenish Wood Pattern, Serial #07390994 with case and bullets; and (1) New England 410 Shotgun with Brown Chipped Buttstock, Serial #NS362314, Defendant.	)	

NOTICE OF SEIZURE AND INTENDED FORFEITURE

THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION TO: Brian Givens, 8117 E.W. 130 Road, Wetumka, OK 74884; and all others claiming an interest in the above described property.

You are hereby notified that the Muscogee (Creek) Nation has seized and intends to forfeit the above described property under the provisions of MCNCA Title 22 §, 2-102, *et seq*.

Said property was seized on or about the 5TH day of January 2014, from said Brian Givens and forfeiture is sought for the reason that said defendant had the rifle and shotgun in close proximity to illegal drugs;

The owner, claimant or other party in interest may file a verified answer and claim to the above named property within forty-five (45) days of notice after which time the Muscogee (Creek) Nation will move the Court for an Order of Forfeiture for said property.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shelly Harrison, Prosecutor
Muscogee (Creek) Nation
Department of Justice
PO Box 580
Okmulgee, OK 74447
(918) 295-9720

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

DISTRICT COURT FILED
2014 OCT 23 AM 11 29
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION DONNA BEAVER COURT CLERK

IN THE MATTER OF:	)	
J.R., DOB: 09-22-2009	)	
A.Y.T-R., DOB: 01-31-2011	)	
A.L.T-R., DOB: 05-07-2012	)	**Case No. JV-2014-03**
J.R., DOB: 03-19-2014	)	
Alleged Deprived Children.	)	

NOTICE OF HEARING TO:

Manuel Sanchez, Natural Father to J.R., DOB: 03/19/14

YOU ARE HEREBY GIVEN NOTICE that a Petition to Terminate Parental Rights has been filed against you in the above-styled and numbered cause and will be heard in the District Courtroom of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Tribal Complex in Okmulgee, Oklahoma on the **9TH day of JANUARY 2015 at 9:00 A.M.**

YOU ARE HEREBY INFORMED that it is sought by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation that the child remains a ward of the Court and custody be continued in the Children and Family Services Administration for continued foster placement of possible pre-adoptive placement. **YOU ARE FUTHER INFORMED** that you have the right to be represented by legal counsel at this hearing.

FURTHERMORE, failure to appear at the hearing shall constitute a denial of interest in the child which denial may result, without further notice of this proceeding or any subsequent proceeding, in the termination of your parental rights.

JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

DISTRICT COURT FILED
2014 OCT 23 AM 11 29
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION DONNA BEAVER COURT CLERK

IN THE MATTER OF:	)	
J.R., DOB: 09-22-2009	)	
A.Y.T-R., DOB: 01-31-2011	)	
A.L.T-R., DOB: 05-07-2012	)	**Case No. JV-2014-03**
J.R., DOB: 03-19-2014	)	
Alleged Deprived Children.	)	

NOTICE OF HEARING TO:

Russell Tun-Carillo, Natural Father to J.R., DOB: 09/22/09; A.Y.T-R., DOB: 01/31/11; and A.L.T-R., DOB: 05/07/12

YOU ARE HEREBY GIVEN NOTICE that a Petition to Terminate Parental Rights has been filed against you in the above-styled and numbered cause and will be heard in the District Courtroom of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Tribal Complex in Okmulgee, Oklahoma on the **9TH day of JANUARY 2015 at 9:00 A.M.**

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JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

DISTRICT COURT FILED
2014 OCT 23 AM 11 29
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION DONNA BEAVER COURT CLERK

IN THE MATTER OF:	)	
J.R., DOB: 09-22-2009	)	
A.Y.T-R., DOB: 01-31-2011	)	
A.L.T-R., DOB: 05-07-2012	)	**Case No. JV-2014-03**
J.R., DOB: 03-19-2014	)	
Alleged Deprived Children.	)	

NOTICE OF HEARING TO:

Sonja Rivera, Natural Mother

YOU ARE HEREBY GIVEN NOTICE that a Petition to Terminate Parental Rights has been filed against you in the above-styled and numbered cause and will be heard in the District Courtroom of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Tribal Complex in Okmulgee, Oklahoma on the **9TH day of JANUARY 2015 at 9:00 A.M.**

YOU ARE HEREBY INFORMED that it is sought by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation that the child remains a ward of the Court and custody be continued in the Children and Family Services Administration for continued foster placement of possible pre-adoptive placement. **YOU ARE FUTHER INFORMED** that you have the right to be represented by legal counsel at this hearing.

FURTHERMORE, failure to appear at the hearing shall constitute a denial of interest in the child which denial may result, without further notice of this proceeding or any subsequent proceeding, in the termination of your parental rights.

JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT

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MCNDH discusses Ebola preparation on 'Mvskoke Radio'



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Chief medical officer gives insight into virus

Gary Fife/*Radio Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla.—With the nation's attention focused on possibilities of an Ebola virus epidemic reaching the shores of the United States, what preparations has the local community and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation made to deal with the illness?

Those questions were addressed by Dr. Lawrence Vark, MCN Department of Health Acting Chief Medical Officer during the Nov. 1 'Mvskoke Radio' show.

Mvskoke Radio: Dr. Vark, could you explain just what the Ebola virus is?

Vark: Ebola is a virus, which is a type of infectious organism; which was first discovered in Africa in the Democratic Republic of Congo, formerly known as Zaire, along the Ebola River. In my research I have counted 33 outbreaks of Ebola virus since 1976 to the present. This outbreak has got in excess of 5,000 people which makes it the largest outbreak in our dealing with the disease.

MR: What are the symptoms?

Vark: The disease can affect anyone from two to 21 days. Most commonly, it's from eight to 12 days that symptoms develop. People generally have an abrupt onset of fever, muscle aches, what we call malaise, which is just that sense that you just feel lousy. You can have joint pain. It will progress on from there to nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, significant diarrhea and there can be some unexplained bleeding—nose bleeds, gums bleeding, blood in the urine, blood in the stool.

MR: It sounds like someone could mistake these symptoms for something else or mistake it for Ebola if they were to jump to some conclusions. Is that likelihood there?

Vark: Absolutely. Symptoms of Ebola, particularly in the initial phases, are very similar to any number of diseases that we here in the United States encounter every year. It's very typical of flu-like symptoms. I think the main thing for folks to keep in mind is we look at what we call the epidemiology of the disease.

This disease started out in Africa and everyone in the United States who has been affected has either come from Africa or they had treated a patient that had Ebola that was from Africa. Travel history is extremely important and the history of your contacts. If you have a patient or person who has been to Africa in one of these three areas: Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia; those are the hotspots right now. Then, that certainly raises some red flags or if you have been in contact with a person from those areas and they have been sick, and obviously health care workers who have been treating a people that are actively ill; we watch those folks as well. If you haven't been outside of Okmulgee, Okla., and you've been with friends and family and you have a fever and you have had no contact with any of those high-risk individuals, then it's not Ebola.

MR: Is it a threat now that we really have to be concerned about or just keep our eyes open?

Vark: I think that's exactly right. I think it's important to be aware of what's going on. But, the risk really, over the United States is extremely low at this point in time. There have been, I believe, eight persons that have been infected with this disease in the United States. Obviously the population of the United States is over 300 million people. I don't want to minimize; Ebola is a serious disease, but I do think it's important that we keep this in perspective. The relative risk for folks is extremely, extremely low.

Ebola is spread by direct contact with infected bodily fluids. That would be saliva, blood, urine, fecal material, vomiting. In general, you're looking at about a three-foot area. If you drew a circle around an area around a person with Ebola, there's about a three-foot circle where the risk of Ebola particles coming from that person would be high enough that it would put you at some substantial risk.

MR: Is Ebola treatable? Are there any drugs that could make someone well?

Vark: Currently, there is not. There is no type of vaccine. There is no type of medication that is effective to cure Ebola. The main reason that people die of Ebola is because of dehydration and the chemical imbalance that follows, we call an electrolyte imbalance. What we do is what we call 'provide supportive care' for people. We give them lots of fluids, we monitor their kidney function, their liver function and we treat issues as they arise. In an untreated situation, Ebola can have a very high mortality rate.

With good supportive care, with proper medical attention, we've had health care workers that have been infected that have done quite well and now are disease free and are back with their families.

MR: How has the Muscogee (Creek) Nation prepared itself? You've had meetings with local and regional health agencies?

Vark: Yes, we have met with the state health department, with the local health departments. We've met with Tribal Emergency Management. Every facility has a plan for what to do in case an individual…we have a screening process in place. What our function is in working with the state health department is to identify a person that might possibly have the disease, get that person to a room isolated to where they don't pose a hazard to other patients or employees in the area. Then, contact our state health department who will then work in concert with us and determine a strategy for this patient should they indeed, be found to be infected with Ebola.

MR: Would that plan include setting up centers where people might be directed to undergo screening?

Vark: There has been some discussion with the Oklahoma Hospital Association. I know they have been in discussion. There was some talk about, perhaps, having regional 'Ebola hospitals,' so to speak. Personally, I think that's a very reasonable idea. Obviously, because we have had no cases in Oklahoma, that idea has not come full circle yet, but there has been some discussion about that and those plans are under consideration.

MR: With the colder weather rapidly approaching, there are steps that people should be taking to head off any communicable diseases. What would you recommend?

Vark: Obviously, Ebola is not the only disease that affects people. We're coming up on the flu season right now. Flu is here. It's here every year. It is much more highly contagious than Ebola. Flu kills 49,000 people a year in the United States and it is largely preventable. People need to get a flu shot.

You cannot get the flu from a flu shot. It is not a 100 percent guarantee that you won't get it. Perhaps 10 percent of people or less that have a flu shot will get the flu. Invariably, they will get a much milder form of the disease.

Prevention is the key. If I could offer one piece of advice for today, that would be it.

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The clan chronicles: Wotkvlke and Vhvlvkvlke

Raccoon and Potato Clans

Amanda Rutland/*Media Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Potato Clan (Vhvlvkvlke in the Mvskoke language) and Raccoon Clan (Wotkvlke) are old clans that some say are as old as the Mvskoke creation story.

The Raccoon and Potato Clan are considered relatives. Ethnologist John Swanton recorded that in some towns, the Potato Clan called the Raccoon Clan their uncle.

There is some confusion that the Vhvlvkvlke are sweet potatoes, but that is not the case.

Alabama Ceremonial Ground Mekko Robert Yargee said that vhv are the wild potatoes that grow in the marsh and swampy areas of the Muscogee (Creek) homelands.



Muscogee (Creek) Nation Cultural Preservation Department Traditional Cultural Specialist David Proctor, College of the Muscogee Nation Native American Studies Instructor Norma Marshall and traditional flute maker Nelson Harjo all agree that vhv is a bog potato.

Yargee said the Vhvlvkvlke are the main clan of the Tukvpvtce people and are considered special.

"The Vhvlvkvlke in our line of fire, are well-respected people. Since they come from the Earth, we don't really designate them to do any kind of work or anything like that," Yargee said. "Not unless they say, 'I want to do some work.' "

Though the Vhvlvkvlke are not designated to hold a job such as mekko (roughly king), they are a red clan and before Removal, they were warriors. Wotkvlke are also a red clan.

In an interview for a short documentary piece titled 'The Native American Warrior,' Harjo speaks about red clans.

"The warriors, they would separate them from the rest of the tribe. They would sit on the outside and the heleshayv (medicine man), he would actually get them ready.

"Essentially, what they were doing is calling on that warrior's spirit to come and to reside within them. That way when they went into battle, they didn't really have any fear," Harjo said.

According to Swanton, the medicine man would paint circles around the eyes of the raccoons before they went into battle. This signified that they could see in the dark.

"I was told that members of the Raccoon Clan painted circles about their eyes, but according to others, this was done merely by doctors as a sign that they were able to see in the dark," Swanton said.

As for the Sweet Potato Clan, some say that they do not believe it is a clan and others say it is.

"I have never in my lifetime heard of a sweet potato. I think what happened is people, since they lost their identity when the grounds all ceased, they thought Vhv meant sweet potato," Yargee said.

Swanton's 'Bureau of Ethnology Reports' does not record a sweet potato clan.

Harjo said his nephew does not have a ceremonial ground of his own and has joined New Tulsa with an uncle. The ceremonial ground placed him with the Sweet Potato Clan, Vhvcumvlke.

The story of the Sweet Potato Clan is that it is a clan for the orphans and foreigners. The late pastor of Tulmochussee Indian Baptist Church David Mitchell told the story of the Sweet Potato Clan as follows.

When foreigners came into the land, they eventually began to intermarry with the Mvskokvlke. This caused problems for the children because they had no place to which they belonged.

The mothers of the clanless children were heartbroken for their offspring. They approached the elders and asked what to do. The elders told them to pray to the Creator and if their hearts were pure, the Creator would answer their prayer.

The women went into the woods to fast and pray. After many days, the Creator saw their earnestness and told them to look for a plant that cried out to them.

The women looked and looked. When they were almost ready to give up, they heard a voice calling them. They didn't see it at first because it was hidden under the ground. They brought back the sweet potato to the village and it fed the people.

The clanless became the sweet potato.

Wotkvlke have been mekko at the: Fishpond, Quasarty, Kialegee, Thlopthlocco, Cheyaha, Tukvpvtce, Arbeka, Tulmochussee, Wewoka and Weogufkee Tribal Towns.

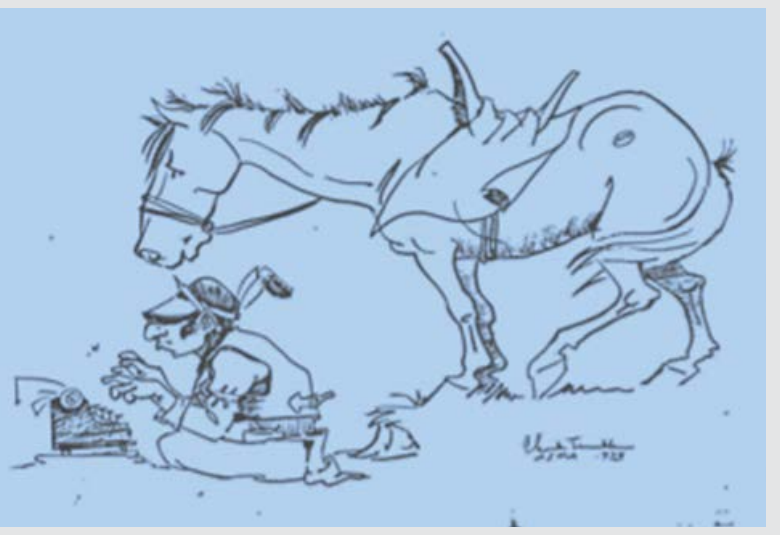
Wotkvlke have been henehv (roughly judge or second man) at the: Talledega, Arbeka, West Arbeka and Cheyaha Tribal Towns.

Prominent Wotkvlke: MCN Veterans Affairs Service Office Director Ken Davis, Traditional Artist Sandy Fife-Wilson and Eufaula Mayor Selina Jayne-Dornan.

"The Vhvlvkvlke in our line of fire, are well-respected people. Since they come from the Earth, we don't really designate them to do any kind of work or anything like that."

- Alabama Ceremonial Ground Mekko Robert Yargee

Emvpanyv: 'One who tells a story'



Boycott FedEx? Federal bureaucrat no-shows, a chief 'oops'

Gary Fife/*Radio Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Osage Nation is boycotting FedEx until the company ends its relationship with the Washington NFL team, according to the 'Osage News,' along with local and national news reports.

Osage Nation Principal Chief Geoffrey Standing Bear stated:

"We respect the position of the National Congress of American Indians in regard to the relationship between the Washington NFL Team and FedEx. The NCAI has asked FedEx to re-evaluate involvement with an institution which refers to our Native people as 'Redskins.' "

Standing Bear directed Osage Nation employees to stop using FedEx when there is an alternative available and encourages other tribal Nations to consider similar actions.

That could be some interesting economic muscle.

Hoowee, did I ever tangle with federal bureaucrats!

It seems a Special Assistant for Indian Affairs was in the area last month, delivering speeches about 'financial education.' (In other words, don't blow the next Cobell payment check on a fancy vehicle or some expensive do-hickey?)

Their staff person contacted us, right?

I got the assignment to try and help them with some airtime on the radio show and rearranged the program. But, come airtime: 'no-show' from the Special guy. I'm stuck with a 20-minute hole in a live radio program.

For anyone who heard that show, you listened to a 20-minute ad-lib.

It seems 'they couldn't find' the radio station, after being told several times that KOKL is in downtown Okmulgee. Their driver even got an attitude when one of our crew tried to tell them there is no MCN radio station, that 'Mvskoke Radio' is aired at the AM commercial station.

I guess federal bureaucrats in fancy suits know more than us 'dumb Indian hicks,' huh?

Anyway, I had a brief email exchange with the person who asked us for help and let them know I didn't appreciate the way they failed to deliver on a commitment and the way our citizens were treated.

I did get an apology from their chief of staff dude who said he "misunderstood" and "I feel horrible."

By the way, Lighthorse was scheduled to appear on the show, too, but their leadership went out of town and no one let me know, another massive hole in the show.

Some days, you just can't win.

The principal chief of the Cherokee Nation is under fire for attending a fundraising event for Sen. Jim Inhofe (R-Oklahoma).

Chief Bill John Baker attended a live pigeon shoot for Inhofe earlier this month. His official truck was used. He wore a Cherokee Nation shirt and can be seen in videos posted by an animal rights group holding a shotgun.

The tribe donated $2,500 to attend the event, which was billed as a "dove hunt."

Somehow, blasting pigeons just taken out of a cage and thrown in the air doesn't quite seem sporting or even, hunting.

Baker said Inhofe's campaign misrepresented the nature of the event and he apologized for going.

"Had I known the event on Sept. 5 was not a sporting hunt that would provide food for my family or others, I would not have accepted the invitation," Baker said in a statement to Indianz.Com. "I regret my attendance, and apologize that my presence could imply to some that I condone the events of that day. I do not."

By the way, the Cherokee Village in Park Hill was included on the list of "Best Native American Experiences" by 'USA Today.'

Oh yeah— the opinions expressed in this column are mine; not this paper's, not this tribe's. I thought that might be in order.

Hvtvm Cerehares — I will see you again.

SSAP offers disability assistance

Help available through program to file for benefits

MCN SSAP/*Media Release*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Social Security pays benefits to people who cannot work because they have a medical condition that is expected to last at least one year or end in death.

You should apply for disability benefits as soon as you become disabled. It takes an average of 3-4 months to process an application for disability benefits.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Social Security Assistance Program is here to help our citizens complete the application for disability benefits. We invite you to come into the office located at the Solomon McCombs Building on the MCN Tribal Complex or call us at: 918-549-2479. We will do an assessment and schedule an appointment for you to file an application.

What do I need to do to get ready for my appointment? We need to know: the names and birth dates of your minor children and your spouse; dates of marriages and divorces; checking or savings account information; the name, address and phone number of someone we can contact if we are unable to reach you and worker's compensation information.

What information is needed about my disability? The information needed includes: names and addresses of the doctors, hospitals, clinics that take care of you and the dates of your visits; names and dosages of all medication you take; a summary of where you worked and the kind of work you did and any medical records that you have.

If you are unable to gather all of this information, our staff will assist you in getting it. The Social Security Assistance Program takes applications by telephone and in-person. The application process takes between 1-2 hours to complete. It is very important that you are on time for your appointment and if you cannot keep your appointment, call immediately so your appointment can be rescheduled.

The staff at the Social Security Assistance Program looks forward to assisting you with any social security issue.

If you have a social security question that you would like to have answered in this column, you may submit the question by: fax: 918-549-2427; phone: 918-549-2479; email: lfarris@mcn-nsn.gov or regular mail: Muscogee (Creek) Nation, SSAP, PO Box 580; Okmulgee, OK 74447.

The question and answer will appear in our next column.

A call for Mvskoke artists

Cultural Preservation/*Media Release*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Throughout the year, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Historic and Cultural Preservation Department provides traditional arts classes within the MCN in collaboration with MCN Chartered Communities to support our tribal members in maintaining these important tribal arts traditions within our families and communities.

Cultural Preservation is seeking all Muscogee (Creek) artists who are interested in being an instructor of traditional art workshops. We are looking for tribal member artisans in the following areas that can provide instruction in producing these important disciplines:

1) Shell carving

2) Pottery

3) Moccasins

4) Finger woven sashes

5) Stompdance shellshakers

6) Basket weaving

7) ballsticks/balls for stickball

If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Ms. Odette Freeman at: 918-732-7639, or ofreeman@mcn-nsn.gov.

Mvto!

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Community and Tribal Events

MCN SRO November schedule

MCN SRO*/Media Release*

WETUMKA, Okla. — The following is the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Southern Regional Office schedule for the remainder of November.

Nov. 4, 18, 25

Tax Commission
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Lunch
11-11:30 a.m.

Oct. 5

Citizenship Office
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Lunch
12-1 p.m.

Oct. 11, 17, 27-28

Closed for Veterans and Native American Day and Thanksgiving respectively

Oct. 14

WIC Program
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

For more information, contact the MCN SRO at: 405-452-1100.

MVTO



The Gouge Family wishes to convey our sincerest appreciation for your prayers and support during the passing of Felix. We are blessed to have friends like you and are thankful for all you have done. We want to give a special thanks to the Hickory Ground women for preparing the meal, Geebon Gouge and Marcus Briggs for special songs and many thanks to Middle Creek #2 Church.

Native arts/crafts event set for Nov. 15

TULSA, Okla. — Tulsa Indian United Methodist Church has set a Native American arts and crafts event for Nov. 15 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at TIUMC, 1901 N. College, Tulsa, OK, 74110.

For more information call 918-834-1956 or email: tulsaindianumc@outlook.com.

SCIC election set for Dec. 1

SAPULPA, Okla. — The Sapulpa Creek Indian Community has set an officer election for Dec. 1 at 7 p.m. during the monthly community meeting.

Nominations will be made from the floor and voting will be conducted by secret ballot

A Muscogee (Creek) Nation citizenship card must be presented to vote.

Christmas market set for Dec. 13

SAPULPA, Okla. — The 4th annual Native American Christmas Market is set for Dec. 13, from 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. at the Sapulpa Elks Lodge.

The vendor fee is $30 plus an item donation. For more information contact Tricia Alexander at: 918-629-7187 or email: autumnstarcatering@gmail.com.

Native beauty pageant/talent show set for Jan. 30-31, 2015

GLENPOOL, Okla. — A Native beauty pageant is set for Jan. 30, 2015 and a Native talent show is set for Jan. 31, 2015 at the Glenpool Conference Center in Glenpool.

For more information visit: www.rosieeliteexpos.com or call: 918-857-6630.

TANF opens satellite office

Location to better assist citizens in Tulsa

Jessica McBride*/Editorial Assistant*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program will be opening a satellite office Nov. 3 in Jenks, Okla.

The office is located at the Jenks Plaza at 715 W. Main St., in Suite B.

TANF strives to increase self-sufficiency for Native families by breaking the cycle of dependency on welfare programs.

Citizens will be able to access all TANF services at this location from application to support.

TANF Director Neenah Tiger said that this location will help reach out to citizens of Rogers, Mayes, Wagoner, Tulsa and Creek Counties.

"In looking at the number of cases that we had overall for TANF and then looking at where our greatest concentration is at this time; it was that northern region," Tiger said.

Tiger said that Jenks is a centralized location for areas in the northern part of the MCN jurisdiction.

"In the future, we are looking at opening up an office in the southern region and we're working on those counties as well at this time," Tiger said.

Tiger said that they will arrange appointments with citizens outside of the Jenks and Okmulgee offices if necessary.

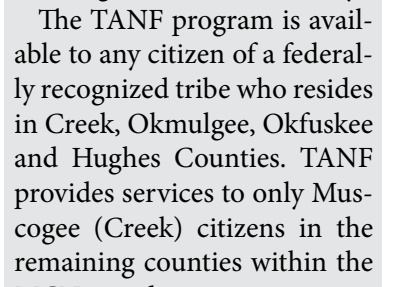
The TANF program is available to any citizen of a federally recognized tribe who resides in Creek, Okmulgee, Okfuskee and Hughes Counties. TANF provides services to only Muscogee (Creek) citizens in the remaining counties within the MCN jurisdiction.

Tiger said that the program is currently working to expand services to all Native Americans in Seminole County.

Tiger stated that she is encouraged by the support from MCN for the program's efforts to improve services.

"I'm very proud of what we've accomplished and as well as the support from Cherrah (Giles) and Chief Tiger as well in all these endeavors," Tiger said.

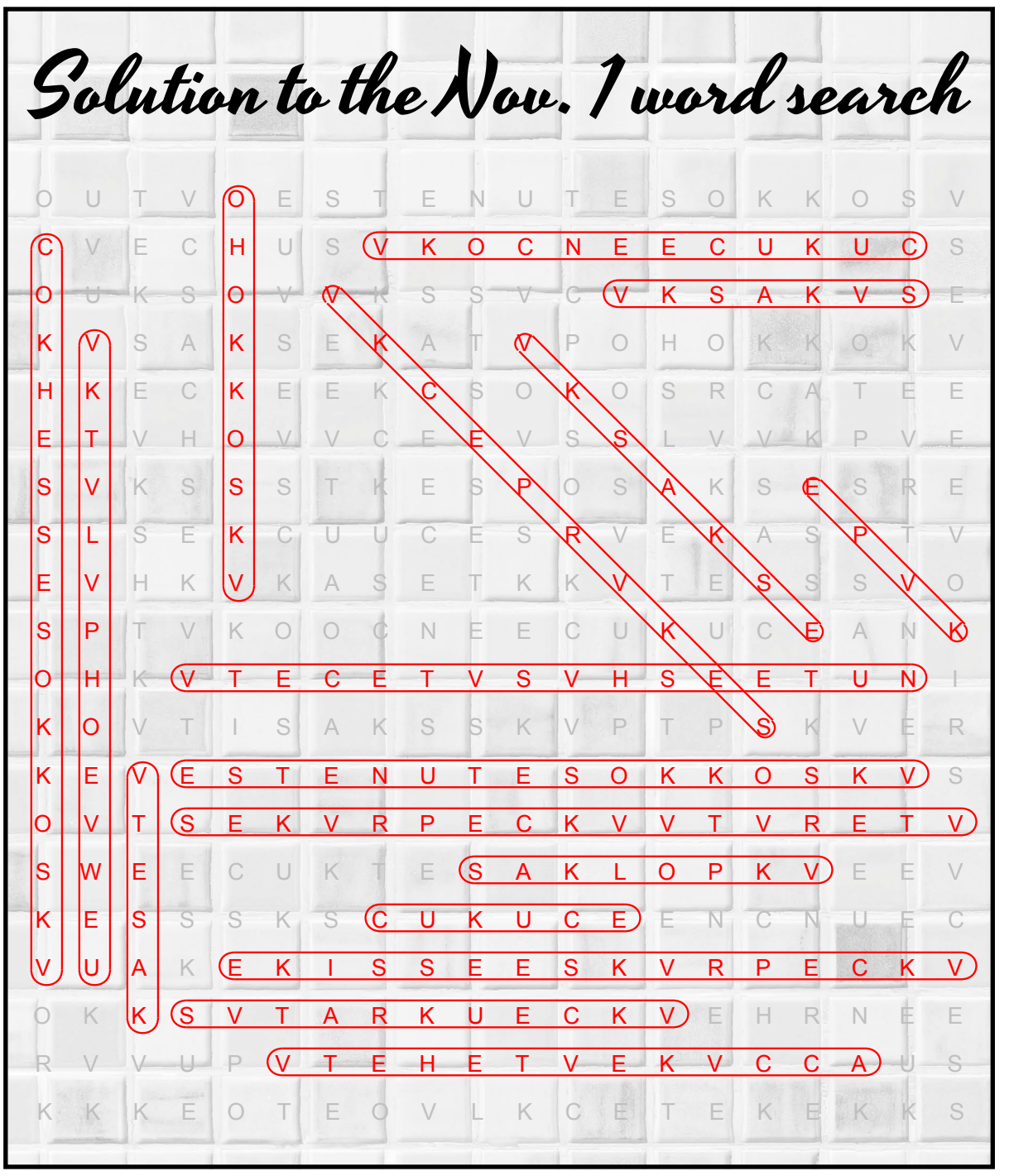
To contact the TANF program at the Jenks location, call: 918-732-7926.

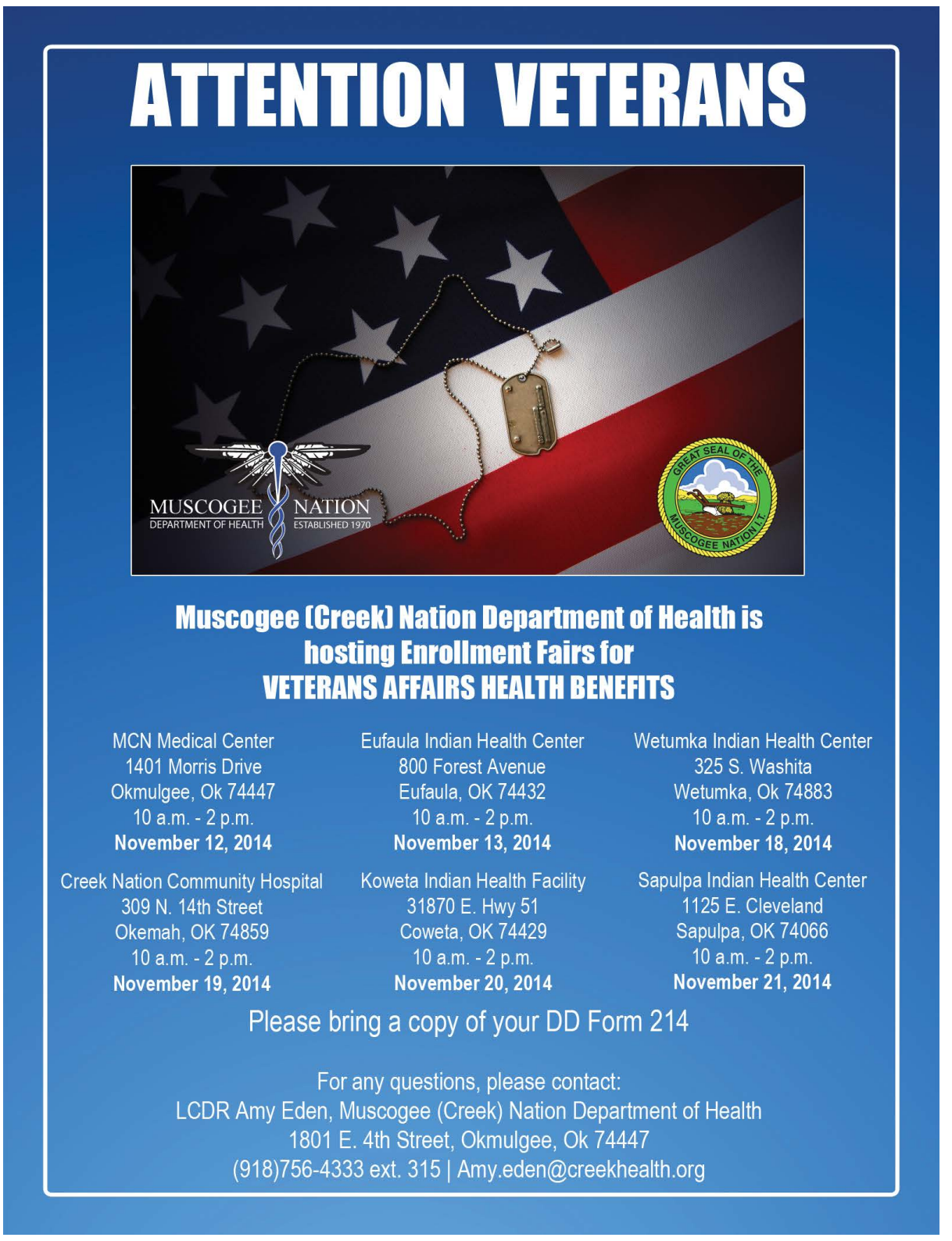


List of upcoming MNN deadlines

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The following is a list of upcoming deadlines to submit content for the 'Muscogee Nation News.'

Dec. 1 - Nov. 21	**Jan. 15, 2015 - Jan. 7, 2015**	**April 15, 2015 - April 7, 2015**
Dec. 15 - Dec. 5	**Feb. 1, 2015 - Jan. 23, 2015**	**May 1, 2015 - April 23**
Jan. 1, 2015 - Dec. 19	**Feb. 15, 2015 - Feb. 6, 2015**	**May 15, 2015 - May 7, 2015**
	March 1, 2015 - Feb. 20, 2015	**June 1, 2015 - May 22, 2015**
	March 15, 2015 - March 6, 2015	**June 15, 2015 - June 8, 2015**
	April 1, 2015 - March 25, 2015	**July 1, 2015 - June 22, 2015**





Winner of 12, 2014 National Native Media Awards



Who represents you: Chris Azbell
- Page 3

Harjo awarded nation's highest honor
- Page 4

Second annual Career, Education Expo held
- Page 7

MCN second chief special election candidate profiles
- Pages 11-12



Muscogee Nation News

Mvskoke Media production — The official tribal newspaper of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation

Dec. 1, 2014

Vol. 44, Issue 23

"Rvfo Rakko" Big Winter

Mvskoke Etvlwv Festival kicks off in Washington, D.C.

Culture shared at Smithsonian's National American Indian museum

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

WASHINGTON, D.C. — More than 200 Muscogee (Creek) citizens, employees, artists and leaders made the 1,000 mile trip by land and air from Oklahoma to the U.S. capitol for the Mvskoke Etvlwv: Muscogee People Festival scheduled Nov. 14-16 at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian.

Due to the overwhelming popularity of the festival two years ago, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation was invited back to NMAI for another three-day event.

"It is always a pleasure to have the tribe back here with us to share their culture. We had such an overwhelming response the first time they were here that we needed them to come back here," NMAI Assistant Director of Community and Constituent Services Carolyn McClellan said.

According to McClellan, approximately 6,000 people visit NMAI on a daily basis. She expects that with the popularity of the Mvskoke Etvlwv Festival, that figure would increase to 8,000.



MNN/Amanda Rutland

A stompdance demonstration was held by Tallahassee Ceremonial Ground Nov. 14 as part of day one of the Mvskoke Etvlwv: Muscogee People Festival Nov. 14-16 at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian.

"Over the three-day event of the festival, we are expecting over 20,000 people to come visit the museum and see what is going on at the festival," McClellan said.

The opening ceremony began Nov. 14 with remarks from MCN Principal Chief George Tiger followed by the posting of the colors by the Mvskoke Nation Honor Guard.

"This is important for us because we show everyone here how far we have come as a Nation and we can share our culture, language and government. We were here two years ago and it was one of the most attended tribal festivals that they have ever had," Tiger said.

Numerous MCN departments and Muscogee (Creek) artists set up displays for the public.

Tallahassee Ceremonial Ground held a stompdance demonstration allowing children from numerous schools throughout Washington, D.C., to participate.

"We want to show that there is more to our Indian culture than what they see on TV," Tallahassee Ceremonial Ground leader David Proctor said. "We want them to see first hand and hear our songs when we have our ceremonies."

The energy of the festival shifted into a more calm state with Creek Hymn singing.

"We hope they feel it in their hearts the love of Jesus and that is who we are singing for," singer Terry Fish said.

These events were held in the afternoon along with performances of the 'Dawes Commission,' a play performed in the Mvskoke language about the federal government's attempt to convince a Muscogee (Creek) family to accept allotment.

Second annual Mvskoke Day held at Iron Gate

MCN workers, volunteers help less fortunate

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

TULSA, Okla. — The morning was 34 degrees and people began lining up, patiently waiting for the doors to open to feel the warmth from inside Iron Gate soup kitchen in Tulsa.

The line continued to expand as more people showed up to be served during Mvskoke Day held Nov. 7 in observance of Native American Heritage Month.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation employees and citizens served over 700 people from a traditional menu, which included frybread, hominy, fried meat, grape dumplings and brown beans.

"There are more people who are homeless or getting homeless by the day," Muscogee (Creek) citizen Charles July Jr. said. "Thanks to Iron Gate, we can get fed for the day."



MNN/Darren DeLaune

'Bubba,' 2, enjoys his traditional meal Nov. 7 during Mvskoke Day at Iron Gate in Tulsa, Okla.

What made it more special for July was that he was able to eat the food that he has missed because it was Mvskoke Day.

"Eating the grape dumplings, I missed those a lot," July said. "The frybread and fried meat brought back some great memories when I was a lot younger."

After July ate his meal, he packed up what belongings he had, put on his layers of clothes, thanked everyone that he could and set off for 'home,' which he said was near north Tulsa.

During the event, other volunteers worked booths, providing goodies to guests and information regarding MCN services.

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Cherrah Giles, who serves on the Iron Gate Board of Directors, was overjoyed at the people who came in to get fed and the volunteers from MCN who came out that morning to help.

"I had the opportunity to talk to a few people that got something to eat," Giles said. "They wanted to know what services that we offered at the Nation. It is important that we can answer those questions for them so we can get the services to them."

Iron Gate Executive Director Connie Cronley was happy about the number of volunteers that helped out.

Iron - 6

Muscogee (Creek) exhibit displayed at WGC

Reception held at Guthrie Center for collaborative project

Amanda Rutland/*Media Specialist*

TULSA, Okla. — A viewing reception was held in observance of Native American Heritage Month Nov. 6 at the Woody Guthrie Center in Tulsa for the Muscogee (Creek) exhibit, which was a collaborative effort between the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Cultural Center and Archives Department and WGC.

The event was sponsored by MCN CCA and the MCN Department of Tourism and Recreation.

The exhibit briefly covers the Nation from 1500-2000s. The display gives information about topics including the Mississippian Period and impact that the Muscogee (Creek) people had on folksinger Woody Guthrie.

One of the information panels mapped the allotments surrounding Guthrie's childhood home in Okemah, Okla. TR Special Projects Coordinator Brian OnTheHill designed the panels inside the exhibit.

CCA Interim Director Justin Giles said the exhibit is small because it is meant to pique curiosity.

"Our exhibit is really to just give them a snippet of, from contact on up to today," Giles said. "As long as they walk away and saying, 'Hey, that is the Muscogee Nation seal. I know that seal now. I get a little information there.' They are better equipped to talk with us."

MCN Principal Chief George Tiger said that Guthrie had strong ties with the Nation.

"He attended a lot of our ceremonials at the stomp-

Exhibit - 6

MvskokeMedia

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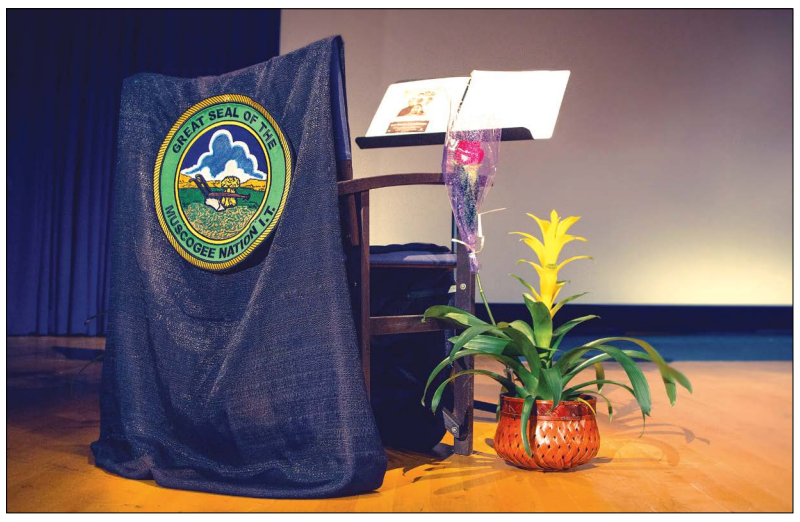
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Native American Journalist Association

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The Mvskoke Etvlwv: Muscogee People Festival day two

A Nation mourns but 'the show must go on'

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*



MNN/Amanda Rutland
An empty director's chair was placed on the stage of the Rasmuson Theater Nov. 15 during a screening of 'The Dawes Commission,' in honor of the movie/play's creator Bob Hicks who passed away while directing the piece for the Mvskoke Etvlwv Festival at Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C.

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Day two of the Mvskoke Etvlwv Festival began Nov. 15 the same as day one with the Mvskoke Nation Honor Guard posting the colors.

Stompdance demonstrations began promptly on the ground floor of the Potomac Atrium and was immediately followed by Creek Hymn singing. Crowds began filing in when the museum opened to catch a glimpse of the dances and also the singing that was being demonstrated.

Another area that people could participate in was the Muscogee Finger Weaving and Muscogee Coloring Book class.

Children ages 3-10 grabbed a seat and either started coloring and learned to say the names of the animals in Mvskoke, or they waited on instructions for the finger weaving class by their teacher, Sandy Fife-Wilson.

According to Wilson, the Native American tribes of the southeast made certain things by finger weaving. Belts, sashes were among the things that were made with finger weaving.

Wilson also wanted everyone that participated in her class to remember what they were taught and finish their project to take some of the Mvskoke culture home with them.

"I want them to have fun in learning and also finish what they have started in my class," Wilson said. "I want them to see what beautiful designs and get a better understanding of the skills and arts that the Creeks did."

Jennifer Nevin Anderson, who lives in Arlington, Va., had both of her children participate in the finger weaving class. She said she enjoyed it as much as her children did and loved that Wilson shared some of her tribe's culture with the younger generation.

"The finger weaving was a little tough but once we got the hang of it, it went a little better," Anderson said. "Looking over her other things made by the finger weaving, showed my family and I how difficult making certain things can be. We know it would take a bit to learn and that is what makes this part of the Creek culture so wonderful."

Mandy Foster, one of the employees at the National Museum of the American Indian, helped Wilson with her class. Foster, who is Lakota Sioux from South Dakota, enjoyed being able to be a part of another Native American culture.

"It is great for our employees and the public to see other diversities of culture throughout the United States," Foster said. "A lot of our visitors come here and expect the stereotypical imagery and for them to be able to see the Creek culture, dances and hear their singing broadens and enlightens their minds."

In the afternoon of day two, most of the public and citizens of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation gathered in the Rasmuson Theater for the viewing of 'The Dawes Commission' movie. Originally, it was supposed to be a live performance. However, the director of the play/movie, Bob Hicks, passed away suddenly on day one of the festival.

The United States Flag, out of respect for Hicks, was flown at half-staff. Before the movie, remarks were made by MCN Principal Chief George Tiger and Speaker of MCN National Council Thomas Yahola. Director of NMAI Kevin Gover also spoke to the audience about Hicks.

"I spoke to the cast this morning and they were telling me that he (Hicks) was getting onto them," Tiger said. "I thought to myself, how typical that is of Bob Hicks. As I said many times, by no means, are we perfect. We strive for perfection and that was Bob Hicks."

On the stage sat an empty director's chair. The chair served as a makeshift memorial in memory of Hicks. Flowers were at the base of the chair and the chair was covered with a black drape that had the MCN Seal in the director's memory.

At the end of the film, the cast and crew were introduced and met with a standing ovation. One of the actresses for the movie, Lillian Thomas considered this moment bittersweet.

"It gives me a good feeling that his movie is being shown here in Washington D.C.," Thomas said. "His dream project was to make a movie out of that play."

The cast and crew are hoping for a nomination of an Oscar award for his movie will happen here in the near future.

"Now we are praying that this movie does get a nomination and award, in memory of Bob Hicks," Thomas said.

Day two ended with the Mvskoke Nation Honor Guard retiring the colors and the citizens along with the public leaving the museum for the evening to get ready for day three.

Etvlwv final day still brings in a crowd



MNN/Chelsie Rich
Muscogee (Creek) citizen Nelson Harjo (right) displays one of the flutes he crafted to attendees, including Joseph Giantelli (left) and his children during the Mvskoke Etvlwv Festival Nov. 14-16 at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C.

Attendees enthralled by cultural similarities, differences

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Day three of the Mvskoke Etvlwv Festival began a little differently Nov. 16, with a church service at the hotel, which housed the festival participants.

"When you have a relationship and are friends with God, I don't care where you are at; if you pray to him, he hears and will comfort you.

"He knows your concerns, thoughts and knows what you need. Especially with the loss of someone dear to us, he is comforting us," Broken Arrow Indian United Methodist member Charles McHenry said to attendees.

McHenry felt that through the singing and praying, he could feel God's comforting.

"We needed to sing and to pray and we felt the glory of God," McHenry said.

The event officially opened the same as in day's prior and afterwards, attendees were able to experience many displays featuring traditional Mvskoke culture and services from modern Muscogee (Creek) Nation departments and programs.

Joseph Giantelli of Rockville, Md., was intrigued by the flutes made and played by Nelson Harjo Sr.

"This is great," Giantelli said. "My children play the flute but it is totally different than how he plays it. There is a different sound and a different way to hold the flute. And to know that he makes his own flutes is that much more amazing."

Giantelli expressed his enjoyment of the festival and believed his children felt the same.

"I am amazed at what they have shown us," Giantelli said. "We have never seen this at all and I believe my children have not blinked their eyes at all."

A public screening of the film 'This May Be the Last Time' by Muscogee (Creek) citizen Sterlin Harjo was held in the Rasmuson Theater.

"Showing the film here at the museum is an honor because it is showing everyone here where I am from and they get an understanding of what our songs are and what they mean to us," Harjo said. "I don't think our people or Southeastern tribes are represented that well, so it is nice to be able to show who we are and at such a prestigious place."

MCN Cultural Center and Archives Interim Director Justin Giles was happy with how everything went with the festival.

"It was an honor and privilege to represent the Muscogee (Creek) Nation at the National Museum of the American Indian," Giles said. "What makes it more special is that we do it during the month of November, which is Native American History Month."

Giles felt that the festival represented the Nation well.

"Being the fourth largest tribe in the United States, we needed to show what our tribe and culture is to the world," Giles said. "I believe that we did that. We showed everyone who we are."

Bob Hicks passes away at 80



Courtesy/Ric Denney
Muscogee (Creek) citizen Bob Hicks (left) works with 'The Dawes Commission' cast in June 2014.

'Dawes Commission' creator spends final day showing work in D.C.

The hearts and minds of the Mvskoke Media staff are with the family and friends of Muscogee (Creek) citizen Bob Hicks, who passed away Nov. 14.

Hicks' play, 'The Dawes Commission,' was performed during the Mvskoke Etvlwv Festival Nov. 14-16 at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C., and the recently completed movie production of the piece is currently under review for an Academy Award nomination.

Hicks will be remembered by MM for his kind spirit and passion for Mvskoke culture and history.

RIP, Bob.

Transmission line to be constructed across Muscogee (Creek) Nation

Department works to address historic, cultural concerns

Jessica McBride/*Editorial Assistant*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Clean Line Energy Partners is currently working on a project that would take wind energy in western Oklahoma to highly populated areas in the Southeastern U.S.

The Plains and Eastern project began in 2009 and once finalized, would build transmission lines to transport electricity from the wind farms around the Oklahoma panhandle across the state, through Arkansas to substations in Memphis, Tenn.

Clean Line Executive Vice President of Development Mario Hurtado said that wind energy is an abundant and inexpensive resource in Oklahoma.

Hurtado believes that Oklahoma wind farms have not expanded because they do not have a transport mechanism to send the energy to a location that can use it.

"Not a lot has been built up until now because there hasn't been the transmission lines to transmit that energy and, you know; there's so much energy that frankly it's a relatively small market in Oklahoma for the amount of energy that's out there," Hurtado said.

Currently approval for the project is contingent on the U.S. Department of Energy Environmental Impact Statement. Clean Line expects the report to be released in December.

The EIS is a provision of the National Environmental Policy Act, which requires federal agencies to take environmental concerns into account while considering the approval of an internal or external project.

Hurtado said that NEPA helps different agencies begin analyzing the different parts of a project and work together.

"From our perspective, it's a very good thing because it gets the different agencies talking," Hurtado said.

After the EIS is released, the public will have 90 days to comment or raise concerns about the findings.

Clean Line is estimating that construction will begin in 2015 and completed by 2018.

The preliminary corridor of the transmission line will cross the Muscogee (Creek) Nation jurisdiction through Creek, Okmulgee and Muskogee Counties.

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires federal agencies to understand the effect of their projects on historic property.

The MCN Cultural Preservation Department will become involved if a project lives federal funds, a federal permit or federal lands.

Cultural Preservation is currently working with DOE on the Plains and Eastern project.

"Part of our concerns for cultural preservation is the location of where the route will go," MCN Cultural Preservation Historic Preservation Manager Johnny Jacobs said. "Our office, you know; we deal with cultural resources here in the state of Oklahoma within our tribal boundaries, but also through the Southeast."

Jacobs said that the department is taking a proactive approach in gathering information and relaying it to DOE so that currently known archeological, historic and sacred sites are not disturbed by the project.

Clean Line Environmental Director Jason Thomas said that the company is trying to avoid trust and restricted land and minimize the impact on MCN.

"We realize that's a scarce resource for the tribe and for the nation and for the folks that hold that property," Thomas said. "We've got a lot of respect for those resources and the process itself, and the people involved in those resources."

In the event that a site such as an unmarked grave is discovered during construction, Jacobs said that the department will work with DOE and Clean Line to mitigate the problem.

Jacobs stated that citizens should be aware of the Plains and Eastern project, and contact Cultural Preservation if they are aware of any gravesites, or culturally and historically significant sites located on their property.

To contact the MCN Cultural Preservation Department, call: 918-732-7758.

For questions regarding trust or restricted land contact the MCN Realty Department at: 918-732-7702.

For more information about the Clean Line Energy Partners Plains and Eastern project, call: 877-573-2851 or visit: www.plainsandeasterncleanline.com.

For more information about the status of the U.S. Department of Energy Environmental Impact Statement, visit: www.plainsandeasterneis.com.

Who represents you: Chris Azbell



City councilman advocates volunteering

Jessica McBride/Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Besides his job as Muscogee (Creek) Nation Cultural Center and Archives special projects coordinator, Muscogee (Creek) citizen Chris Azbell also finds time to promote Okmulgee as the Chamber of Commerce Board president and represent residents as the Okmulgee City Councilman for Ward 2.

Azbell was appointed by Mayor Steve Baldridge to complete an unfinished term in April 2013.

After he completed the term, Azbell said he was compelled to run for Ward 2 councilman in February 2014.

"When you take a leadership role, it's a natural thing to kind of want to be a part of that and part of the solution you kind of started," Azbell said.

Azbell's term ends June 2017.

Azbell credits his involvement with Leadership Okmulgee for getting his name recognized as someone who wanted to be an integral part of the Okmulgee community.

He stressed the importance of volunteering.

"People like to voice their opinions on different things, but it's action is the key," Azbell said. "...You have to put yourself in those positions where you can make a difference in what's going on in the community."

Azbell also believes volunteering is a great networking tool and resume booster.

He also suggested that individuals vote in local elections.

Azbell remembers an occasion while serving as a councilman where a handful of people impacted a vote.

"Eight individuals caused the election to fail," Azbell said. "Every person has the ability to make a difference."

As a councilman, Azbell believes he is helping change the perspective of MCN.

"A lot of times with Creek Nation, everybody views them as just a big money source," Azbell said.

Azbell also helped reinforce the relationship between MCN and the City of Okmulgee.

"I wanted the city to be a true partner with Creek Nation," Azbell said.

In the future, he hopes to further this collaboration.

Azbell feels that as a councilman, he not only represents the community; but also represents Muscogee (Creek) citizens and Native Americans that reside in Okmulgee.

"I'm Creek and I embrace that opportunity," Azbell said.

Azbell also encouraged individuals to get involved in their community, whether it is volunteering, running for office or voting.

"We're only going to be as strong as the people allow our government to be," Azbell said.

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Harjo awarded nation's highest civilian honor



Facebook

Suzan Shown Harjo was announced Nov. 10 as one of the 2014 recipients of the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Tribal citizen to be presented with Presidential Medal of Freedom

Gary Fife/*Radio Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — It was announced Nov. 10, that Suzan Shown Harjo will receive the nation's highest civilian honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom Nov. 24 during a ceremony at the White House.

According to the White House Office of the Press Secretary, recipients are awarded the prestigious accolade for their, "especially meritorious contributions to the security or national interests of the United States, to world peace, or to cultural or other significant public or private endeavors."

"Wow," was Harjo's reaction, "yes, absolutely. This is a serious award and I am just thrilled that I'm one of the recipients and I'm thrilled to be in the company I'm in."

Among the some other 18 also listed for the 2014 honor were: Ethel Kennedy, Tom Brokaw, Meryl Streep and Stevie Wonder.

Harjo, who is a Cheyenne and Arapaho citizen and also Muscogee (Creek), has been on the national Native American legislative scene for decades and played a role in aiding the passage of laws such as the American Indian Religious Freedom Act and the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act.

But it has been her support of the effort to protect Native sacred sites and to change the name of the Washington, D.C., professional football team that has brought Harjo the most attention in recent years.

"So many of our efforts in protection of sacred places and, of course, stereotyping in American society and the lack of respect we have in American society is really tied to these negative images about us and these names that we're called that make us commodities like we were in the bounty hunting days when our people were skinned," Harjo said.

In her work for sacred sites, the fight to protect the burial grounds in Alabama is foremost on her agenda.

"It's always wonderful to be lauded and to be recognized and for people to lift you up."

- Suzan Shown Harjo

"In Hickory Ground, which was the last capitol of Muscogee (Creek) Nation before removal and that is being desecrated now as we speak and this is something that the people at Hickory Ground and the National Council of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and the administration are very dedicated to helping turn around," Harjo said.

The honor, she laughed, will go far to give her strength to continue her work.

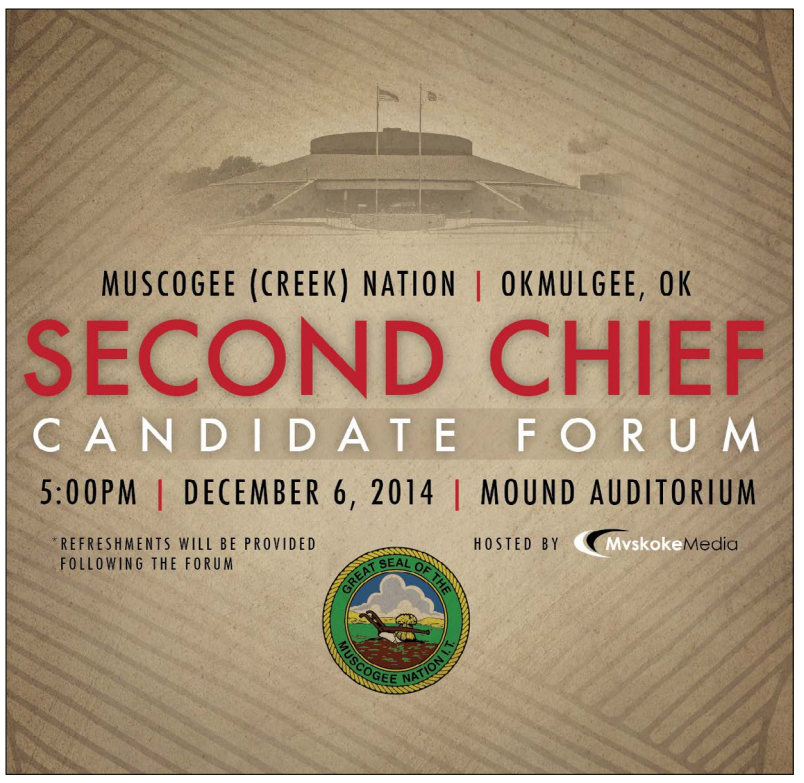
"Well, talk about an 'Oklahoma-ism,' it's better than a stick in the eye. It's always wonderful to be lauded and to be recognized and for people to lift you up," Harjo said. "You know, people are lifting me up for a reason and it's not just sit back and say, 'Oh, look what I've done.' It's to say, 'Look what needs to be done now and help us, help us, help us.' "



A word search from the Mvskoke Language Preservation Program: *Commands*

WIKVS — Quit
MAKVS — Say it
HVTET CE — Wait a minute
VHKOPVNVS — Play
AHUERVS — Stand up
YVHIKVKS — Sing
HOMPVS — Eat
LETKVS — Run
VTES — Come
OPVNVS —Dance
ESKVS — Drink
HECVS — Look
MAPOHICVS — Listen
TASKSVS — Jump
HOMPVKS CI — You all eat
WVKKVS — Lie down

V	O	K	A	A	A	M	S	V	H	K	S	P	T	U	I	K	I	S	V	M	M	E	V	S	N
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P	N	H	E	S	O	K	E	S	K	A	M	V	I	H	T	E	T	C	E	R	A	V	K	C	S
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Mvskoke Etvlwv: reflecting on a journey



New events, old ways

Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — As I boarded the plane, I had no idea how spiritual the journey to the Mvskoke Etvlwv Festival would be.

The gathering of Mvskokvlke usually is: traditional church services, stompdances or just being together. The Horseshoe Bend trip was spiritual, but I assumed that was because we were going to the Homelands.

I think we have a way of coming together to remind each other who we are. This was extremely evident with the sudden passing of Bob Hicks.

Bob had befriended me while working on the post-production of 'The Dawes Commission' movie. Although, our friendship did not span even a year, he made an impact on my life as a Native American working in multimedia. He encouraged me and made me believe I could actually make a difference with my work.

After Bob's passing, there was an impromptu service. We came together to sing and uplift one another in a painful time.

It reminded me that we are not promised tomorrow. It reminded me to be thankful for everything I have and the opportunities I have been given. It reminded me how proud I am to be from a people that care so much for one another and are strong enough to carry on during hard times.

For the following two days, 'The Dawes Commission' film was shown instead of the play. The ending lines of the movie rang especially true.

"This Nation is going through dark times, but you know, we've been there before. We went through dark times after we were removed from Alabama. We went through dark times after the Civil War and each time we always rebuild," Jackson Barnett's character Tullymarcy Scott said. "We will rebuild again and be better and stronger than before. For that is the Mvskoke way."

At the premiere of 'This May be the Last Time,' Sterlin Harjo dedicated the showing to Bob. The film just further echoed the strength of Mvskoke and our ability to endure. Different sources in the film spoke about hymns being sung on the Trail to give us the strength to carry on.

I think sometimes, getting away is needed to be able to see things for what they are. Maybe that is why the old ones used to go out and fast and pray by themselves. Maybe we need more of the old ways.

DeLaune's Corner: Mvskoke Etvlwv



Making a mark, showing progress

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Hello everyone! How have you been doing? Miss me? Be honest. I have missed you all too. It seems like forever since I have written a column and technically, it has been.

I flew out to Washington, D.C., for the Mvskoke Etvlwv Festival on Nov. 12. I have been to D.C., numerous times before but for nothing like this.

I was telling myself that Muscogee (Creeks) are doing a semi-takeover of the nation's capitol.

Although I was going as a reporter and covering this event, I was also going first and foremost as a Muscogee (Creek) citizen and along with that, there was a lot of fulfillment and gratification.

I kept telling myself, your tribe is taking over the National Museum of the American Indian for three days. For that period of time, this museum and everyone that is working or visiting will hear everything about your tribe.

Seeing the dances, hearing the Creek singing and seeing all the people representing your culture brings that honor and excitement. It reminds you that MCN is on the map. We are alive, vibrant and above all else, we are moving forward.

Over the course of those three days, there were multitudes of people observing the stompdance, hearing our songs and visiting information booths. Whether it was one of our departments or an artist booth, the visitors were there with numerous questions.

The end of day one and day two were very sad with the passing of Muscogee (Creek) citizen producer/director Bob Hicks. The cast, crew and his friends that were up there told me that one of his dreams was to have 'The Dawes Commission' performed at the Smithsonian. I know he got his wish although what happened still saddens me along with the loss for his family and friends.

MCN National Council Speaker Thomas Yahola talked about how Hicks would want the 'show' to go on. I believe he was saying that we need to 'go forward,' progress and rise above. MCN is doing just that.

On the final day of the festival, I remembered there were still a lot of things that need to be covered so I had to take care of those. However, after watching the film 'This May be the Last Time,' by Sterlin Harjo and finishing up my interviews, I walked out to the museum and saw majority of the lights were off.

I wanted to look it over one more time. While dark and semi-empty, I remembered looking over everything and thinking, 'It may be empty but we left our mark.'

The visitors will remember that we were here and we left them with a lasting impression.

Through the sadness, I know that our tribe is showing progress, and especially, rising above.

I tell myself, this was an amazing journey. I expect the next two years to be another unbelievable adventure until we make our return trip. So until then, we will be seeing you NMAI.

IRON

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"We had volunteers who were here the night before until 10 p.m. preparing the meals for today," Cronley said. "Then they went home, slept a few hours and returned back a little after 6 a.m. to get ready for the day."

Cronley hoped that patrons were able to reconnect with the tribe and the services the MCN offers.

"When some tribal members get separated from other tribal departments or services, they feel isolated and they cannot get anything done or move forward," Cronley said. "With all the services here today, we want to get the word out that there are tribal departments that can help the ones that are in need."

Melvin Morgan, another Muscogee (Creek) citizen and one of the many people who ate during that morning, was happy that he woke up and remembered that the MCN was going to be at Iron Gate that day.

"This is wonderful," Morgan said. "A lot of people who are not Indian get to see and taste what our traditional food is. It is a blessing that we have Iron Gate here and Creek Nation here with us today."

After 10:30 a.m., some who were served moved on to other areas while most stayed inside the parking lot of Trinity Episcopal Church, which is where Iron Gate is located.

"I am glad Creek Nation came here today," July said. "I am glad they helped me and everyone else here. They prayed for us, talked to us and that helps. That is my culture. That is my tribe."

EXHIBIT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

dances. It is also written in his autobiography and he mentions going to Alabama (Ceremonial Ground) and going to Greenleaf and area stompdance grounds," Tiger said.

WGC Executive Director Deana McCloud said that the museum was proud to have this display because Guthrie grew up in the heart of MCN.

"This is an important part of what we do. We use Woody's artifacts as a centerpiece for everything around the museum," McCloud said. "It is more than a story of one person. It's who we all are; who we are as Oklahomans; who we are as citizens and where we came from."

McCloud said she worries that some young people do not understand the need for them to be proud of who they are.

"We especially want to make sure our American Indian young people who come in our doors understand that we honor and admire their culture and that they need to take pride in that heritage," McCloud said.

McCloud believes Oklahomans are strong people.

"Being from Oklahoma means you have a proud and resilient heritage from Trail of Tears, the Dustbowl, the tornados and apparently earthquakes that we now have. We don't say, 'Now, we give up. That's too tough,' " McCloud said.

The exhibit will be on display until March 31.

Mvskoke Etvlwv: a mutual learning experience



Capturing one culture, learning of another

Chelsie Rich/Project Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Growing up I had always dreamed of traveling and seeing the world but my dreams where held back because of my fear of riding on an airplane.

I used to pass up school trips or even family vacations because I was too scared.

One day I was given the opportunity to go to Los Angeles for a leadership conference and I decided this was it; this was the time I was going to conquer my fears.

It was nothing like I expect it to be and I thought about how much I have already missed out on.

Since then, I have traveled to many places I've always wanted to see such as Las Vegas, Chicago and Denver.

I recently was able to travel to Washington, D.C., for the Mvskoke Etvlwv Festival at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian.

While I was there, I was given the opportunity to represent my tribe and see things I've never seen before.

Everyday while in D.C., I woke up, got ready and walked to the museum.

On the walk, when you looked one way you could see the U.S. Capitol Building and when you look the other way, the Washington Monument.

It was a great feeling to being in the nation's capitol.

I got a little experience of what people who live there go through everyday. I was on my way to 'work' just like they were.

On a normal work day for me, I wake up to get ready and get into my car and drive about 30 minutes to my job. Not there, most people walk to work or take a cab.

I walked by houses that were side by side by side and thought, 'How do they live like that?'

I'm use to walking out my front door and seeing grass, trees and acres of land.

While at the museum, I photographed the activities of the festival and was able to speak with people from different places.

People were asking questions about the tribe like where we were from. They were amazed by our culture and what we were doing at the museum.

To see the people's faces when the dancers performed the stompdance, the hymn singers sang and when the Honor Guard posted the flags, was priceless. They were in amazement.

I realized in that moment how much we take things for granted.

Being Muscogee (Creek) is something we are everyday. We hear the songs. We see the dances. We see our culture everyday so we're used to it.

What we do might not seem like a big deal to us because that's what we know but to someone else who knows nothing about Native Americans, it could leave an everlasting impression on them.

I'm very grateful I got to have this experience to share the Muscogee (Creek) culture and to visit a new city.

Mvskoke Etvlwv: sharing culture keeps it alive



Christina Good Voice/Manager

OKMULGEE, Okla. — It's summer 1989. It's almost dark outside, yet, my younger sister and my three cousins soak up as much of the setting sun as we can.

We are dirty from playing outside all day but that's what kids do. We've ran laps around the house hundreds of times that day, and have ran past our Grandpa Ken Good Voice multiple times.

He calls out for one of us to come sit with him while he talks in his Native tongue, Rosebud Lakota. But, as all children think, we thought we would have him around forever and we never sat down to talk with him the way he wished.

He passed away in late 1996, and took his memories, language and culture with him.

I also have memories of hearing my Creek grandma sit around the dinner table talking and joking with her brothers and sisters in the Creek language. I'd sit and watch and listen in fascination, wondering how they knew what the other was saying.

Like many, I'm guilty of taking my heritage for granted. I didn't realize until I was 18 and moved away to college just how important my culture and tribal identity is.

Flash forward 14 years. I'm 32, and proudly walking out to stompdance with other Mvskoke citizens – and some Euchees too – at the Mvskoke Etvlwv Festival in Washington, D.C.

I didn't grow up going to a ceremonial ground. I started going as an adult, and have introduced my four children to it. My oldest children, 12-year-old twins, Jacob and Jaylen, have taken to it quickly and effortlessly. My son leads and my daughter is a shellshaker.

While at the festival, I watched as the non-Natives joined in our dances with us. The children listened to the songs and hymns with such concentration; as if they were trying to learn them all in the 45 minutes they had at each demonstration. They asked all of us questions and all of our Creek Nation representatives and employees patiently answered their questions.

Sometimes I wonder what is so fascinating about our culture. But, then I remember back to the time I was that clueless but eager child who watched my Grandma talk in her language… OUR language. People are fascinated with our people because each of us, in our own way is perpetuating our Mvskoke culture, even if we don't think we are. It took several years, but I finally learned to appreciate my heritage. I finally learned the importance of sitting down with my elders and listening. Because someday, I'll be an elder and I'll have my own stories to tell. And, I hope to tell the story to my grandchildren about that one time I got to dance in Washington, D.C.

Second annual Education, Career Expo held in Beggs

Event aimed at helping citizens find education, employment

Chelsie Rich/*Project Specialist*



MNN/Chelsie Rich
Tulsa Shock Guard Angel Goodrich spoke to high school students Nov. 6 during the second annual Education and Career Expo at the Beggs High School Dome in Beggs, Okla.

BEGGS, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Education and Training in collaboration with the College of the Muscogee Nation, MCN Human Resources and Muscogee Nation Business Enterprises hosted the 2nd annual Education and Career Expo Nov. 6 at the Beggs High School Dome in Beggs.

MCN Employment and Training Youth Coordinator Nancy Mason spoke about the goal of the event.

"To have them get connected with colleges and technical schools, job opportunities and also resources that are available from the tribe and in the community," Mason said.

The event consisted of two sessions, one for high school students and one for adults.

"In the morning time, we had JOM (Johnson O'Malley) students that were here who came around and learned about different career options for them in the future," Mason said.

The high school students met with college and technical school representatives to help them start preparing for life after graduation.

Tulsa Shock guard Angel Goodrich spoke to the students about their dreams in life, shared her own story and spoke about how important it is to get an education.

"I'm here to speak to the juniors and seniors about my experience and about how I became successful as an athlete and as a student," Goodrich said. "And to help them out and help them realize anything's possible; dreams do come true."

Goodrich spoke about how her grades came first and how her mother would not allow her to play basketball if her grades fell below a B average.

Goodrich graduated with a bachelor's degree in applied behavioral sciences from the University of Kansas and then was drafted to the Tulsa Shock in 2013.

"If you work hard and put effort into it, anything could happen… I hope that they leave here believing anything is possible," Goodrich said.

The afternoon session of the event was for adults that are seeking employment to learn about employment opportunities and to help connect with community resources.

"We hosted adults who are seeking employment or possibly going back to school and getting some other additional help," Mason said. "We really wanted to focus on jobs that the tribe has currently because there are so many openings within the tribe, within health, within Muscogee business enterprises."

The mission of the MCN Department of Education and Training is to provide support and direction to the management of comprehensive educational programs, which results in quality educational opportunities for Muscogee (Creek) people from early childhood through college.

For more information about the MCN Department of Education and Training call: 918-732-7727.

XFN returns to River Spirit Casino

MMA fighters provide evening entertainment

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

TULSA, Okla. — Xtreme Fight Night 21 made its return to Tulsa in a big way Nov. 1 when it came rolling in to the River Spirit Casino Event Center.

Xtreme Fight Night producer Dale 'Apollo' Cook is always happy to see fans come out to see mixed-martial-arts (MMA) in northeast Oklahoma. He feels that the fans in this community always show support for their fighters and return for fighting events.

"This is my home here in Tulsa," Cook said. "Everyone has shown support for me as a fighter and now that I am on the other side and have been doing this for a few years, they continue to show support for the fighters that fight for me."

Cook feels that both 'Rumble on the River' and 'Xtreme Fight Night' have found a home at MCN River Spirit Casino.

"We have a great partnership going at River Spirit," Cook said. "When both of my brands fight here, they are both very successful and the crowds always return."

Ten fights, which ranged from MMA to kickboxing were in store for the audience that night. The main event for Xtreme Fight Night was Cherokee fighter Jaymee 'Ambush' Jones from Tahlequah, Okla., who won her fight by submission in the first round.

Another brand that started this year and is making waves around northeast Oklahoma, is the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Athletic Commission.

With the tribe having its own athletic commission, they are able to host this type of entertainment throughout the MCN jurisdiction. This commission can produce and regulate its own fights and does not have to rely on the State of Oklahoma.

"This shows the other tribes and the state that we have an athletic commission that can hold and regulate fights," MCN Athletic Commission Executive Director Dan Kirby said. "This is showcasing what this tribe can do."

The MCN Athletic Commission will be hosting eight fighting events throughout the 2015 calendar year.

"These events are great for the tribe and the fans," Kirby said. "It is going to be bigger and bigger and from the looks of it tonight. These fights get sold out every time."

The next event at the casino will be 'Rumble on the River' on Dec. 5.

Tourism and Recreation hosts N7 basketball camp



MNN/Chelsie Rich
Youth ages 5-12 participated in the Nike N7 Move Your Generation Basketball Camp Nov. 8 at the Mvskoke Dome building in Okmulgee, Okla.

Camp held to inspire through basketball, art

Chelsie Rich/*Project Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tourism and Recreation Department hosted the Nike N7 Move Your Generation Basketball Camp Nov. 8 at the Mvskoke Dome building in Okmulgee.

According to the Nike N7 website, the Nike N7 Fund is committed to inspiring and enabling participation in sports for Native American and aboriginal populations in North America.

"It was an event that Nike reached out to me to put on as far as just skills, drills and basic movements that entail in a basketball game," said TR Recreation Manager Rojer Johnson.

According to an event flier, Nike N7 has ignited a series of Move moments across North American to bring basketball into communities in a fun and energizing way that will inspire youth to move their self and their generation.

MCN was selected as one of the communities to host this event.

Muscogee (Creek) citizens were counselors for the youth and helped them with drills and activities and Nike made a donation to MCN to fund all the equipment needed.

Eighty-five Native youth from ages 5-12 showed up to participate in the camp.

"I really wanted to pick the young kids, ages 5-12 that way they get a chance to really just see what it's all about," Johnson said.

" Our youth are our future. We got to reach out to youth; preserve them; get them involved, being active, being healthy and in sport and in wellness."

- MCN Tourism and Recreation Recreation Manager Rojer Johnson

According to the Nike N7 website, N7 believes that sports have the power to unleash human potential.

"Our youth are our future," Johnson said. "We got to reach out to youth; preserve them; get them involved, being active, being healthy and in sport and in wellness. All those endeavors that encompass that same element to get them interested; to get them moving; to get them going."

Following the basketball drills, Bunky Echo-Hawk preformed a live painting demonstration.

Echo-Hawk is a visual artist, graphic designer, painter, photographer, writer and nonprofit professional.

"I work a lot with the youth doing art therapy workshops, using art as a proactive way to bring a healthy message to our Native community," Echo-Hawk said.

Echo-Hawk is a design consultant for Nike N7 and has had the opportunity to incorporate his own designs into the N7 line.

"It's not just about basketball, it's actually about a movement. It's about reclaiming our health as a community, reclaiming our future so we have hope," Echo-Hawk said.

Echo-Hawk is a citizen of the Yakama Nation and is also of the Pawnee Nation and lives in Pawnee, Okla.

According to the Nike N7 website, N7 is inspired by Native American wisdom of the Seven Generations: In every deliberation we must consider the impact of our decisions on the seventh generation.

To learn more about the Nike N7 Fund go online to: www.n7fund.com.



Muscogee (Creek) Nation Community and Tribal Events

MCN Creates New Conservation District

MCN PR/*Media Release*

OKMULGEE, Okla. - The Muscogee (Creek) Nation and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced today the creation of a new conservation district that will help the Tribe manage natural resources, secure assistance for conservation projects and encourage tribal members to own and operate agricultural land.

Principal Chief George Tiger and USDA Deputy Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment Butch Blazer met today in the Tribe's capital city to officially designate the new Muscogee (Creek) Nation Natural Resource Conservation District.

"It is a historic day to sign a document that memorializes the partnership of USDA and Muscogee (Creek) Nation," Chief Tiger said. "Historically, we have been good stewards of our land with special emphasis on clean water and protecting the environment. This will allow us to grow in a positive direction in having more oversight of our natural resources."

As one of 45 Tribal Conservation Districts across the United States, this newest district formed by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation provides an organization for USDA and the Tribe to work together. USDA and the Tribe have a common vision of a healthy and productive nation in harmony with the land. The local leadership through tribal districts will help guide and bring USDA programs to tribal lands.

"We're excited the Muscogee (Creek) Nation has invested in a conservation district to help tribal members achieve their conservation goals for clean water and air, soil health and wildlife habitat on Tribal land," Blazer said. "Conservation districts serve an important role, as they provide locally-driven solutions to natural resource concerns. We look forward to this partnership."

The conservation district was created in late 2013 through Tribal legislation. A memorandum of understanding was signed today by the Tribe, the district and USDA.

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service has worked with the Tribe in the past, providing technical assistance. "The Muscogee (Creek) Nation is committed to conservation, and the creation of this conservation district is yet another important step in that direction," said Gary O'Neill, NRCS state conservationist in Oklahoma.

Learn more about the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Natural Resource Conservation District. For more on technical and financial assistance available through NRCS, visit www.nrcs.usda.gov/GetStarted or a local USDA service center.

Contact:

USDA - Justin Fritscher
202-720-5776
MCN - Edwin Marshall
918-732-7617

OCMA Christmas dinner set for Dec. 5

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Oklahoma City Muscogee (Creek) Association has set a community Christmas dinner for 6:30 p.m., Dec. 5 at Glorieta Baptist Church in Oklahoma City, 7308 S. Western Ave., OKC, OK 73139.

For more information contact Lucinda Myers at: 405-487-7379 or email: lucindamy@yahoo.com.

OCMA Native arts show set for Dec. 6

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Oklahoma Muscogee (Creek) Association has set a Native arts and crafts show for Dec. 6 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the OCMA building, 4111 N. Lincoln Blvd., OKC.

The event is open to the public, vendor fee is $15 and concession stands will be provided by OCMA.

For more information call OCMA at: 405-605-2621.

Christmas Market set for Dec. 13

SAPULPA, Okla. — The 4th annual Native American Christmas Market is set for Dec. 13, from 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. at the Sapulpa Elks Lodge.

The vendor fee is $30 plus an item donation. For more information contact Tricia Alexander at: 918-629-7187 or email: autumnstarcatering@gmail.com.

TCIC election set for Dec. 23

TULSA, Okla. — The Tulsa Creek Indian Community has set an election Dec. 23 from 6-8 p.m. for the treasurer position.

The deadline for letters of intent and the $20 payment for background checks is Dec. 12 by 5 p.m. For more information contact Roman Powell at: 918-695-2781.

Native Beauty Pageant/Talent Show set for Jan. 30-31, 2015

GLENPOOL, Okla. — A Native beauty pageant is set for Jan. 30, 2015 and a Native talent show is set for Jan. 31, 2015 at the Glenpool Conference Center in Glenpool.

For more information visit: www.rosieeliteexpos.com or call: 918-857-6630.

List of upcoming MNN deadlines

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The following is a list of upcoming deadlines to submit content for the 'Muscogee Nation News.'

Dec. 15 - Dec. 5

Jan. 1, 2015 - Dec. 19

Jan. 15, 2015 - Jan. 7, 2015

Muskoke Artist Holiday Gift Guide

Rodslen Brown	**Basket Weaving**	**918-683-2753**
Billy Harjo	**Bead Work**	**918-268-4637**
Nelson Harjo	**Flute Making**	**918-758-7266**
Brenda Holmes	**Beaded Necklaces, Bracelets, Earrings**	**918-686-8821**
Shirley Martin S&L Gallery	**$10 and up Native American Arts and Crafts**	**918-652-5387 511 W. Main, Henryetta, OK**
Scott Roberts	**Pottery**	**405-946-5233 www.creekpotter.com**
Jon Tiger	**Painting, Drawing, Bookmarks, Screen Printed Artwork, watercolor, acrylic, reproductions**	**918-850-3806**

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

DISTRICT COURT FILED
2014 SEP 15 PM 3 36
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
DONNA BEAVER
COURT CLERK

Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Plaintiff,
v.
Two Hundred Fifty-Five Dollars and no/100 ($255.00), Defendant.

Case No. CV 2014-61

MOTION TO SET HEARING

COMES NOW for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, by and through Shelly Harrison, Prosecutor, to show that the above described property needs to be set for hearing. Said property was seized on or about the 10th day of January 2014 from said Dale Estus Sutton, III. On May 7, 2014 a Notice of Seizure and Intended Forfeiture was filed, and was published in the Okmulgee Daily Times Newspaper on July 16, 23 and 30, 2014 as well as the Muscogee Nation News Newspaper in the August 1, 2014 Edition, Volume 44, Issue 15, upon Dale Estus Sutton, III, the owner of the money. An Answer has not been filed regarding the above-referenced property.

WHEREFORE, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation prays this Court to set a Disposition hearing on this matter.

Shelly Harrison, Prosecutor
Muscogee (Creek) Nation
Department of Justice
P.O. Box 580
Okmulgee, OK 74447
918-295-9720

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

DISTRICT COURT FILE
2014 NOV 7 PM 3 00
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
DONNA BEAVER COURT CLERK

Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Plaintiff,
v.
Two Hundred Fifty-Five Dollars and no/100 ($255.00), Defendant.

Case No. CV 2014-61

ORDER SETTING HEARING

NOW on this 7 day of ~~September~~ November 2014, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation's Motion to Set Hearing comes before me, the undersigned Judge of the District Court. The Court, being fully advised in the premise, finds that the above-entitled action should be set for a Disposition hearing.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the above-entitled action is set for on February 23, 2015 @ 1:30pm.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that notice of the hearing shall be given to the parties as required by law.

JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT

IN THE DISTRICT COURT IN AND FOR MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

DISTRICT COURT FILED
2014 OCT 21 AM 10 32
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
DONNA BEAVER COURT CLERK

In the Matter of the Adoption of MINOR CHILD BOY D, a Minor Child.
NO. AD-2014-12-JC

NOTICE OF HEARING APPLICATION FOR TERMINATION
OF PARENTAL RIGHTS OF BIOLOGICAL FATHER

TO: LENNY DARRELL DECKARD
c/o Emilyn Arbital
5550 South Lewis Avenue
Suite 307
Tulsa, OK 74105

Now, on this 21st day of October, 2014, an Application of Sandra Ann Casey was filed in this Court for the termination of your parental rights as the biological father of Chance Xavier Deckard, a child born out of wedlock in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Said Application is set for hearing on the 12th day of December, 2014, at 10:00 A.m. in Room _____ before the undersigned judge at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Courthouse in Okmulgee, Oklahoma.

Applicant has alleged in her Application that you have failed to contribute to the support of the minor child to the extent of you financial ability since the date of the minor child's birth.

You are, therefore, notified that this Court will hear evidence in support of and in opposition of the granting of the Application at the time and place above-referenced, wherein you will have the right to be present, have an opportunity to be heard, and have the right to object to the termination of your parental rights regarding the minor child. Your failure to appear at said hearing shall communication your decision not to oppose the Application to terminate your parental rights and shall communicate a denial of your interest in the minor child, which denial may result, without further notice to you of this or any subsequent proceeding, in the termination of all of your parental rights regarding the minor child in accordance with the laws of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. You are also notified that your duty to contribute to the support of the minor child still continues after your parental rights have been terminated until the minor child is actually adopted by another person or persons.

JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT

MEIER & ASSOCIATES
Gregory G Meier, MCN #550
1524 South Denver Avenue
Tulsa, OK 74119-3829
(918) 584-1212
(918) 584-1295 (facsimile)

Attorneys for Applicant
p:\wpdata\adoption\ntc hrg.termination rights casey

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Mvskoke Etvlwv: Muscogee People Festival










Certificate
THE DAWES COMMISSION

















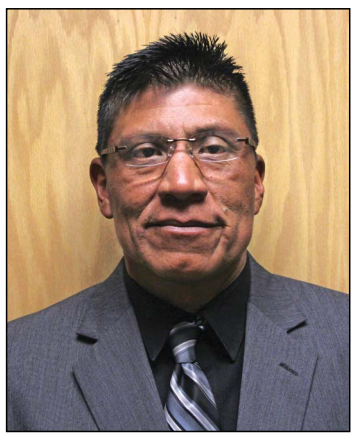




Muscogee (Creek) Nation
second chief special election candidate profiles

Primary Election: Dec. 13 **General Election: Jan. 10, 2015**

Herod (Mekko) Anderson



Clan: Deer
Tribal Town: Fishpond

Education/Experience: Associates in Secondary Education - OSU Institute of Technology Senior; OSU/Tulsa - Bachelors Degree in Human Development and Human Services with a minor in Health Promotion; Morris Indian Community - board member sergeant-at-arms-two years; Johnson O'Malley - board member Holdenville Public Schools - two years; Muscogee/Seminole/Wichita Association Men's Ministry Director – three years; International Honor Society - Oklahoma State University; OSU Alumni Association; I am an active member in my community, school, church and family.

Platform: I will serve the Citizens of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation with honesty, dedication and serve the Office of Second Chief with integrity. I will bring new and innovative ideas that will promote the welfare and future of our great Nation. All citizens will be served with equality and fairness. As a new candidate to the political arena, I will bring fresh and unbiased perspectives to our tribal government. It is my goal that all Creek citizens have equal and sufficient opportunities for success in life, employment and education.

Robert Lee Deere, Jr.



Clan: Wolf

Experience/Education: I obtained my associates degree in business after attending Northeastern State University and Oklahoma State Tech with honors. My experience includes six years as an employee at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council. I have been an education tutor for the Nation's Johnson O'Malley Program, and coach for youth baseball.

Platform: It is vital to "make creek citizens priority" by listening and understanding their concerns. I will uphold the Nation's Constitution and protect our sovereignty.

I will stand up for our traditions and values, reach out to our elders and youth to be more involved within our Nation's government so we can proceed to grow stronger and together as one, stand firm with new ideas or decisions for the betterment of our citizens no matter the opposition, be an advocate for citizens' concerns, be transparent on the Nation's finances, be accessible and accountable.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation
Second Chief Special Election Candidate Profiles

Primary Election: Dec. 13 General Election: Jan. 10, 2015

Selina Jayne-Dornan



Clan: Wotko (Raccoon)
Tribal Town: Yufalv-Cvnete

Education/Experience: EOSC and OSU; Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council representative McIntosh District 2008 - 2011, Business and Government Committee 2008-2010, Community Services Committee 2010 – 2012; Eufaula mayor 2011 – 2015; business owner 2004 – 2013; Intertribal Council 2012 – present; OPG part-time commissioner 2013 – present; EIC vice-chair 2012 - present

Platform: I would be honored and humbled to serve the MCN as second chief and attack problems with real ideas and real solutions. Maintain strong traditional values while helping to develop a stronger, unified Nation. I am not afraid of hard work. My experience and resources will contribute valuable input as we focus on economic development for our communities, increase educational benefits, preserve our language and continue improved health care. I will serve with honesty, integrity and compassion. I will be a team player yet always strive to stand up for what is right and serve as liaison and voice for the communities and all Creek people.

Cherrah Giles

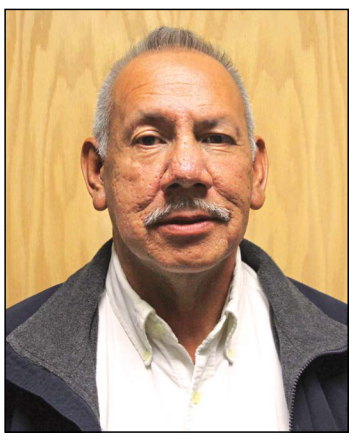


Clan: Fuswvlke (Bird)
Tribal Town: Rekackv (Broken Arrow)
Church: All Tribes Community Church

Education/Experience: Bachelor and master of social work, University of Oklahoma, 2000 and 2001. I served over 10 years on the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council where I was the youngest female elected and first female elected as second speaker. I served as chair of all standing committees as well as the Constitutional Amendment Committee and Women's Caucus. I currently serve as an appointed official of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, as secretary of the Department of Community and Human Services.

Platform: To stand in the gap to restore balance to the lifecycle of our Nation and its people through service, stewardship, strength and success by utilizing the collective impact of our citizens through volunteer programs, impact groups, ombudsman services and national census. Establish systems and protocols for objective programs and services evaluations and annual reporting. More information, please contact: cherrahgiles@gmail.com or 918-346-2486. MVTO!

Floyd Jones

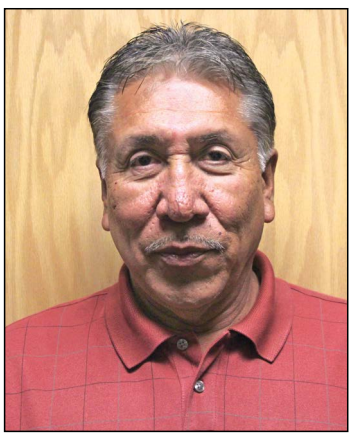


Clan: Ecoswv (Beaver)
Tribal Town: Cussetah
Church: Big Cussetah United Indian Methodist Church
Family: The son of Elmer Jones of Nuyaka and Mahaley Tarpalechee Jones of Okmulgee

Experience: Jones is the business chairman, board trustee and a lay speaker of Big Cussetah United Indian Methodist Church. He has 35 years professional experience in federal housing programs, the Social Services Administration, private business, a college administrator and adjunct instructor. He is also a scholarship donor with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Scholarship Endowment Program.

Platform: As the director of MCN Community Research and Development Department, our program provides technical assistance and training on financial, constitutional and business development. I support the development and construction of MCN Elderly and Veteran Housing, the Reintegration Program, community based satellite services, youth programs and efficiency in services for housing, health and social services. Most importantly, I respect and value our traditional Muscogee values. I believe that true leadership comes from being a servant leader.

Famous Marshall

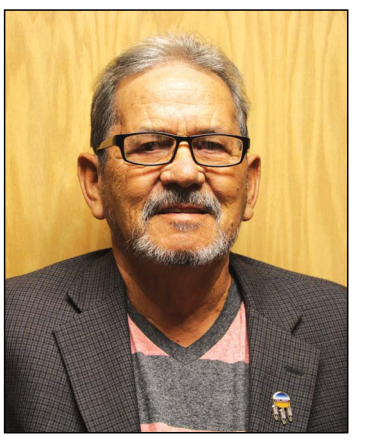


Clan: Wind
Tribal Town: Tukvpvtce
Church: Little Quarsarty Baptist Church

Experience: 34 years tribal government: tribal program director, former MCN National Council member, former small business owner, MCN community administrator.

Platform: As a full citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, I've experienced the positives and negatives associated with being a tribal citizen. I've worked to provide Creek citizens an equal opportunity in program design and governmental participation. I believe each citizen deserves and possesses the right to determine the path for our future. If elected, I vow to be the voice of the unheard and bring government to the people, to serve all Creek citizens no matter their residence, and to encourage and utilize the opportunity to voice your concerns for improving the health and welfare for elders, youth, communities and government.

A.D. Ellis

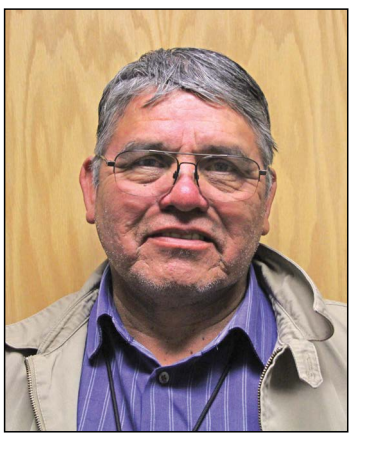


Clan: Turtle
Tribal Town: Locvpoka
Church: Concharty Methodist

Experience: Eight years Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council, four years second chief, eight years principal chief

Platform: This experience should be enough to rebuild the Second Chief's Office (that is now in shambles) to become a respected tribal office. As second chief under chief R. Perry Beaver and with full authority, we moved our Nation forward. You must remember that the elected second chief must be qualified to move into the chief's office if something happened to the chief. As in my past experience as a tribal official, I would always have an open door policy with full transparency, integrity, honesty and an obedience to Mvskoke Nation's Constitution.

Louis Hicks



Clan: Wotkvlke (Raccoon) originally and currently Fuswvke (Bird)
Tribal Town: Atvse originally and adopted into Arbeka since first is no longer active
Church: Silver Springs Baptist

Education: Louis Hicks was born Jan 7, 1951. He graduated from Choctaw High School in 1969. He received an associate's degree from Oscar Rose Jr. College in 1977. In 1979, he received his bachelor's degree from Northeastern State University and his master's degree in 1992.

Platform: As a second chief, his goal is to be open-minded with Muscogee citizens and to diligently listen and act upon their concerns to his limitations. He will follow the constitution of the great Muscogee Nation and to the best of his ability be assertive with whatever authority is given to him by the chief or National Council.

Kara Medina



Clan: Wotko (Raccoon)
Tribal Town: Thlopthlocco
Church: First Baptist - Glenpool

Education/Experience: Bachelor of Arts in American studies and English - 2005/OSU; MBA Spring 2015 - NSU Broken Arrow. Served on the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council for six years as part of the Health, Education and Welfare Committee. Also served as chair of Alternative Fuels Task Force on Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes. Have worked most recently for Paisan Logistics in Broken Arrow, Okla.

Platform: To be a voice of hope, empowerment and encouragement for our citizens and communities - Rather than coming in with my own agenda, I want to truly listen to the citizens and make the people's agenda my agenda. I want to work with our government to continue to create jobs and economic development, supporting and building up our communities and find solutions to other important issues that our people face. I'll roll up my sleeves and get to work taking action and getting involved. I'll work hard to make you proud!

MCN second chief special election information

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The following is information regarding the upcoming special election for the position of Muscogee (Creek) Nation second chief.

Precinct registration - Dec. 3

Muscogee (Creek) citizens will need to call the MCN Election Board to register and verify or update their current information.

Primary election - Dec. 13

If a candidate does not receive at least 51 percent of the votes, then the **general election** will be held **Jan. 10, 2015**. The period for candidates to protest the election results is **Dec. 15-19**.

For more information, contact the MCN Election Board at: 918-732-7685 or email election@mcn-nsn.gov.

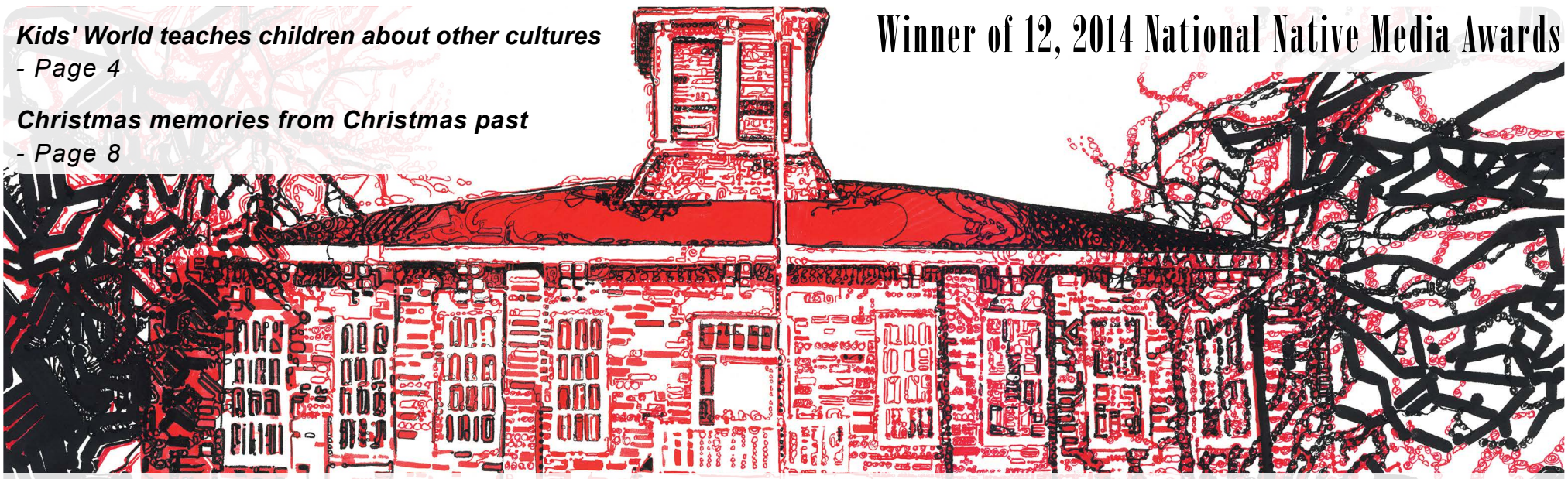
MNN candidate profile disclaimer

All candidate profiles are placed in alphabetical order by last name as written by the candidates and do not necessarily reflect the views of the 'Muscogee Nation News.' The profiles were loosely edited for spelling, grammar and Associated Press style.

Kids' World teaches children about other cultures
- Page 4

Christmas memories from Christmas past
- Page 8

Winner of 12, 2014 National Native Media Awards



Muscogee Nation News

Mvskoke Media production — The official tribal newspaper of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation

Dec. 15, 2014

Vol. 44, Issue 24

"Rvfo Rakko"
Big Winter

Program emphasizes Native American foster, adoption families need

Adoption awareness event held at Mound Building

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*



MNN/Chelsie Rich

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Children and Family Services Administration Manager Carmin Tecumseh-Williams spoke to the audience during an adoption awareness event held Nov. 20 at the MCN Mound Auditorium in Okmulgee, Okla.

OKMULGEE, Okla. — November is National Adoption Awareness Month and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Children and Family Services Administration is doing whatever it can to help spread the word.

Speaker and author Dr. Don Bartlette spoke Nov. 20 at the MCN Mound Building about his book 'Macaroni at Midnight,' during an event sponsored by the MCN Foster Care and Adoption Certification and Recruitment Program.

According to Bartlette's website, 'Macaroni at Midnight' is an autobiographical profile of Bartlette's social, psychological and educational experiences as a Chippewa Indian child growing up with emotional, speech and physical disabilities in an environment of poverty, violence, juvenile delinquency, homelessness, child abuse, racism and alcoholism.

It relates how one person in his community helped him overcome childhood disadvantages and live and survive in a multicultural world.

"This book brings up what I went through in my early life," Bartlette said.

The event was designed to get families certified to provide temporary or permanent care for Muscogee (Creek) children who are in tribal or state custody and spread awareness about keeping Native American children with Native American families.

"It is very important to have Native American children, when they are in custody, to be with families that are Native American," Bartlette said. "It helps the children to not lose their culture. They need to keep their culture, language and heritage."

Bartlette talked to the audience about his upbringing in an alcoholic home. He grew up with a Native American family and was placed in a home where his foster mother was Caucasian.

"This woman came into my life when I was 12-years-old," Bartlette said.

He said this woman gave him new hope, life. She revolutionized his childhood with this new beginning. The only thing Barlette wished was that this woman was Native American.

"So she would have helped me understand my culture," Bartlette said. "I left my childhood knowing nothing about my language."

He said he understood what she was doing when she raised him with this new beginning.

"She wanted me to learn how to survive in the white man's world," Bartlette said.

Bartlette told attendees how they can help perpetuate Native culture.

"I hope that whoever was in

Adoption - 2

Muscogee (Creek) filmmaker Bob Hicks leaves tribal legacy

Citizen remembered for advancing Native Americans in film

Amanda Rutland/*Media Specialist*



Courtesy Ric Denny

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Bob Hicks (center) works with 'The Dawes Commission' cast in June 2014.

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Filmmaker and co-founder of First Americans in the Arts Bobby Kenneth Hicks passed away Nov. 14, at the age of 80.

Hicks accomplished many things in his life. He fought in the Korean War and he owned an auto restoration business in Tulsa, Okla., but he is best known for his work in the theater and the film industries.

Hicks' interest in theater began in the 1970s, when he applied to be an extra in a stage production at the Tulsa Little Theater. As he became more involved with TLT, Hicks encouraged them to cast Native Americans for Native American roles.

Hicks championed Native American talent.

In 1979, Hicks left Oklahoma for Hollywood where he attended the American Film Institute. It was his goal to make a movie.

'The Dawes Commission' producer Sandra Denney said that very few Native Americans were in Hollywood during that time period. Italian and other Caucasian actors were being cast in Native roles.

"They still were not finding Native Americans they felt were talented enough or expressive enough to be in their movies," Denney said.

While in Hollywood, Hicks co-founded FAA to support Native Americans in the film industry.

"Bob wanted to make sure Indians were represented in mainstream movies," Denney said. "The impact that he had on the industry basically was to open the door for Native Americans being chosen, selected and considered for roles in mainstream theater and film."

Hicks said in an interview with 'Muscogee Nation News' earlier this year, that while in Hollywood, he worked on some television shows and a couple of feature films but not as a director.

"I was doing those kinds of things and it was really taking me off my path," Hicks said. "But people say, 'Oh look

Legacy - 5

Eufaula Dorm scholarship created during Council session

York re-nominated as gaming commissioner

Jessica McBride/*Editorial Assistant*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A regular session of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council was held Nov. 22 at the Mound Building on the MCN Tribal Complex in Okmulgee.

The Council addressed the following legislation:

- TR 14-171 authorizing the principal chief to execute a general letter of agreement with Communitycare Life and Health Insurance Company and Hospital Claims Inc. for the MCN Department of Health to furnish healthcare services. Rep. Lucian Tiger sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.
- TR 14-172 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a general letter of agreement with Communitycare HMO for MCNDH to furnish healthcare services to Communitycare HMO members in the commercial, Communitycare Plus and Senior health plan. Tiger sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.
- TR 14-173 Authorizing the principal chief to execute agreements between MCNDH and public school districts to provide health related services to students. Tiger sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.
- TR 14-174 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement between the Nation and Indian Health Services for the employment of David M. McCollough as commissioned personnel for the MCN Okemah Dental Clinic. Rep. Dode Barnett sponsored the resolution,

Council - 3

MvskokeMedia

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Native American Journalist Association

MEMBERS OF THE NATIVE AMERICAN JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION

Tourism and Recreation wins statewide award

AICCO recognizes MCN department

Gary Fife/*Radio Specialist*

CATOOSA, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tourism and Recreation Department was recognized Nov. 21 as the 2014 Business Partner of the Year by the American Indian Chamber of Commerce of Oklahoma during the 2014 annual AICCO Meeting and Awards Reception at the Hard Rock Casino and Hotel in Catoosa.

TR Director William Lowe said the department made a significant contribution to the state chamber, both financially and in-kind.

"…We actually helped plan the entire conference… and I think that's kind of what pushed us past the Cherokee Nation businesses and the Chickasaw Nation businesses," Lowe said.

Lowe learned of the award while the department was at the Mvkoke Etvlwv Festival in Washington, D.C.

"…Everybody just couldn't believe it so we're very, very excited," Lowe said.

AICCO State Board President Jon Overacker said the chamber's mission is to encourage and enhance Native American businesses statewide.



MNN/Amanda Rutland
The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tourism and Recreation Department was recognized Nov. 21 as the 2014 Business Partner of the Year by the American Indian Chamber of Commerce of Oklahoma

"We do host a conference every summer in August so we can bring speakers for our businesses and we try to help our businesses grow, whether they need help in marketing, increasing their bottom line and any possible way we can assist them," Overacker said.

The award was given to TR for their support of AICCO.

"This is awarded to the business that has given both time and monetary contributions through sponsorship, volunteerism and loyal commitment to the AICCO throughout the year," Overacker said.

He mentioned several TR staff members.

"Will Lowe, Molly Moore, Ryan Logan, Brian OnTheHill and Rojer Johnson have been vital to the AICCO through the whole year by helping us get our marketing information out," Overacker said.

Lowe concluded, that he and his department were proud to have made a major contribution to the AICCO and its efforts on behalf of Native American-owned businesses.

"To me, it's about Indian to Indian business. We always hear that same cliché of, 'Let's keep Indian money in Indian Country' of which the Indian chamber are huge advocates of doing business to business in Indian Country," Lowe said.

Awards honor Muscogee (Creek) citizens, descendants



Courtesy Greater Tulsa Indian Affairs Commission
The Greater Tulsa Area Indian Affairs Commission gathered Nov. 6 for the 17th Annual Dream Keepers Awards Banquet at the University of Oklahoma Schusterman Center in Tulsa, Okla. Eleven people were honored with awards, five of which are Muscogee (Creek) citizens or have Muscogee (Creek) descent.

Achievements recognized in a variety of disciplines

Amanda Rutland/*Media Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Greater Tulsa Area Indian Affairs Commission gathered Nov. 6 for the 17th Annual Dream Keepers Awards Banquet at the University of Oklahoma Schusterman Center in Tulsa, Okla. Eleven people were honored with awards, five of which are Muscogee (Creek) citizens or have Muscogee (Creek) descent.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Supreme Court Vice-Chief Justice and Hickory Ceremonial Ground Mekko George Thompson received the Kenneth Anquoe Lifetime Achievement Award. Thompson has been a proponent in the effort to preserve the original Hickory Ground in Wetumpka, Ala.

Thompson has served as Hickory Ground Mekko for 42 years.

According to DK Awards Committee Co-Chair Alice Whitecloud, Thompson was honored for his preservation efforts in Wetumpka, as well as Mvskoke traditions and culture as a whole.

From an early age, Thompson was taught by ceremonial elders to be humble and care for others.

"It was an honor. There were so many, you know, that deserved that," Thompson said. "It was something that I never expected or looked forward to."

Euchee elder Mary Watashe was honored posthumously with the Red Eagle Sacred Circle of Spirituality Award. Watashe taught at the Euchee Language Project and was an active participant at the Polecat Ceremonial Ground and the United Methodist Women's Group.

Mary Watashe's oldest grandson, Cheyenne Watashe accepted the award on her behalf.

Alice Whitecloud said the organization honors many people after they have passed away.

"There are a lot of people that have gone on that are very deserving of that award; so, it honors their family and their memory," Alice Whitecloud said.

Susanne Sanders received the Rennard Strickland Education Award for her dedication to Indian education. Sanders holds the position of Indian Education director for Sand Springs Public Schools.

Sanders is also a member of multiple education organizations including: the National Indian Education Association, Oklahoma Council for Indian Education and the National Johnson O'Malley Association.

Gary Whitecloud received the Roberta Gardipe American Indian Veteran's Award.

"It was a humbling experience," Gary Whitecloud said.

Whitecloud served in the Vietnam War with the U.S. Army 101st Airborne Division also known as the Screaming Eagles.

Gary Whitecloud is an advisor for the All Nations Indian Youth. He is an active powwow participant and member of the Native American Church Otoe chapter.

Former Oklahoma Bar Association Indian Law Section Chairperson and MCN Attorney General's Office Second Assistant Attorney General Susan Arkeketa was awarded the Dr. Ralph Dru Career and Professional Award for over 40 years of work with tribes.

In that time, Arkeketa has held many state and national positions: manager, attorney, educator, judge, journalist, tribal leader and advocate.

"I was so happy because it just felt good that the person who the award is named after, Dr. Ralph Dru, is someone my family actually knew," Arkeketa said. "Knowing what he went through to get his medical degree; you just persevere."

ADOPTION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

the audience today will feel challenged to find more Native homes for our children," Bartlette said. "We have to keep our culture, their culture alive. Having our children placed in Native homes when they are in tribal custody can help do that."

FCACRP Coordinator Robyn Wind stressed the need for more Native American foster families.

The program has over 40 children who are in tribal custody. There are 14 foster homes but all of them except four are filled to capacity.

"We have children that are waiting to be placed in foster care right now," Wind said.

Bartlette has heard several stories about Native Americans being adopted by non-natives and losing their culture.

"They never had any pride as a result of that. They always felt ashamed. We cannot have our children in this generation feeling ashamed of being Native," Bartlette said. "They need to have that pride."

For more information regarding foster care or adoption, contact FCACRP: 918-732-7869.

MCN Program holds chili cook-off

Reintegration event supports toy drive

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Reintegration Program held their seventh annual chili cook off Nov. 21 at the MCN Head Start Conference Room in Okmulgee.

According to RIP Manager Tony Fish, the chili cook off was started to support the MCN RIP Toy Drive held yearly during the holiday season for the children of incarcerated families.

"We want to help the children who have parents that are incarcerated," Fish said. "After we help them, if we have any toys left over, we want to help out any children that are less fortunate and would not get any presents for this year."

There were four entries into this year's cook off. One of the contestants, MCN Family Violence Prevention Program Male Advocate Joe Martel, talked about what it means to be in this year's chili cook off.

"This is very important and I am glad that the Reintegration Program does this every year," Martel said. "Not only does it bring us all together as departments for some friendly competition, but it helps get toys for some of the children that might would not been able to get a toy this year."

Fish said that working with this program has humbled him on a daily basis.

"I am humbled every day, not only at Christmastime," Fish said. "I am fortunate, and along with a lot of other people to where we can help do things such as the toy drive. I want to see people do good and see great things happen with all of our clients in our program."

For more information about the MCN RIP Toy Drive, contact Ashley Bruner at: 918-652-2676.

COUNCIL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



MNN/Jessica McBride

A regular session of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council was held Nov. 22 at the Mound Building on the MCN Tribal Complex in Okmulgee, Okla.

which passed 14-0.

• TR 14-175 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a service agreement on behalf of MCNDH with Diagnostic Laboratory of Oklahoma LLC. Tiger sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

• TR 14-176 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a services agreement on behalf of MCNDH with Mindray North America. Tiger sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

• TR 14-177 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a service agreement on behalf of MCNDH with Zeiss Meditec Inc. Tiger sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

• TR 14-178 Authorizing the principal chief to execute an application for pharmacy license with the State of Oklahoma on behalf of MCNDH. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed. 14-0.

• TR 14-179 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement with McIntosh County for the completion of the Stidham Road Project. Reps. Darrell Proctor and Mark Randolph sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

• TR 14-180 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a lease agreement with IHS on behalf of the Department of Interior Affairs. Randolph sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

• TR 14-181 authorizing the principal chief to execute a correction deed for a tract of land in McIntosh County. Randolph sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

• TR 14-184 Authorizing the Gaming Operation Authority Board to execute a standard form of agreement between owner and contractor with I-5 Design and Manufacturing Inc. for the construction of a sports bar at One Fire Casino. Rep. Robert Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

• TR 14-185 Confirming the re-nomination of Buddy York as a full-time gaming commissioner of the MCN Office of Public Gaming. Rep. Shirlene Ade sponsored the resolution, which passed 13-1 with Rep. Joyce Deere voting against it.

• TR 14-186 Confirming the re-nomination of John T. Cripps to serve as the district trial court judge for the Family Law Division (including child support) of the MCN District Trial Court. Rep. Frank Coachman sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

• TR 14-187 Confirming the re-nomination of Pandee Ramirez to serve on the College of the Muscogee Nation Board of Regents. Rep. James Jennings sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

• TR 14-188 Authorizing the principal chief to execute an incoming loan agreement with the National Park Service Southeast Archeological Center for the purpose of assessing Muscogee (Creek) human remains and funerary objects obtained from the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History for possible rejoining with Muscogee (Creek) human remains and funerary objects curated at the Southeast Archeological Center. Reps. David Nichols and Randolph sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

• TR 14-189 Authorizing GOAB to execute an Oklahoma Class III lease agreement with IGT. Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

• NCA 14-187 Authorizing the expenditure of $286,346 from the Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women Tribal Sexual Assault Services Program to the MCN Family Violence Prevention Program. Jennings sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

• NCA 14-188 Creating Title 37, Chapter 2, Section 2-219 entitled, 'The Muscogee (Creek Nation Eufaula Boarding School Scholarship Fund' and authorizing the expenditure of funds to be used to assist Eufaula Dormitory residents with college scholarships and educational support. Jennings sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

• NCA 14-189 Authorizing a $2,000 donation to Henryetta Public Schools. Rep. Johnnie Greene sponsored the amendment, which was postponed until the next session.

• NCA 14-192 Authorizing a $1,500 donation to the Friends of Sobriety for the 14th annual New Year's Eve Sobriety Powwow. Nichols sponsored the amendment, which passed 13-1 with Barnett voting against it.

• NCA 14-193 Authorizing a $94,050 appropriation to the Bristow Indian Community. Rep. David Hill sponsored the amendment, which was postponed until the next session.

• NCA 14-195 Authorizing a $40,000 appropriation to provide financial assistance to Muscogee (Creek) traditional churches in purchasing propane. Randolph sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

• NCA 14-197 Amending MCN Code Annotated Title 48, Sections 2-103H, 6-103A, 7-101A, 9-101C and 9-102C, entitled, 'Worker's Compensation.' Hufft and Hill sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

• NCA 14-198 Authorizing a $10,000 donation to the Okmulgee County Homeless Shelter. Rep. Mitch Jack sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

• NCA 14-199 Authorizing a $70,000 appropriation to fund the costs associated with the quarterly Inter-Tribal Council Meeting of the Five Civilized Tribes. Hill sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

• NCA 14-200 Authorizing a $1,750 appropriation to seven Muscogee (Creek) youth. Jack sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

Greene was absent.

THE UNIVERSITY of TULSA

Oklahoma Study of Native American Pain Risk (OK-SNAP)
Healthy Research Participants Needed



The University of Tulsa, Psychophysiology Laboratory for Affective Neuroscience is conducting an IRB-approved research study aimed at assessing pain processing in Native Americans.

The goal of this study is to identify potential markers of risk for chronic pain in healthy (currently pain-free) Native American individuals.

To participate, you must NOT*
— *Currently have chronic pain or take pain medications*
— *Have high blood pressure or take antihypertensive medications*
— *Take antidepressant or anti-anxiety medications*
***Additional eligibility criteria do apply.**

This study is safe and non-invasive. Participants must be able to attend 2 testing sessions (approximately 4-5.5 hours/sessions). $200 compensation ($100/day) is provided.

The TU Psychophysiology Laboratory for Affective Neuroscience is dedicated to identifying mechanisms that contribute to and/or maintain chronic pain, and to developing non-invasive methods for assessing individuals at risk for developing chronic pain conditions.

Investigators:
Dr. Jamie Rhudy & Dr. Joanna Shadlow

Oklahoma Study of Native American Pain Risk
OK-SNAP

For more information call:
918-631-2175 or 918-631-3565
You may also visit our wesbite at: http://orgs.utulsa.edu/psychophys
or on Facebook at:
https://www.facebook.com/pages/Oklahoma-Study-of-Native-American-Pain-Risk/465628426873916

Kids' World teaches children about other cultures



MNN/Amanda Rutland

Children attend the Tulsa Global Alliance Kids' World International Festival Nov. 21, at the Tulsa Expo Square Exchange Center in Tulsa, Okla.

Department participates in educational event

Amanda Rutland/*Media Specialist*

TULSA, Okla. — The Tulsa Global Alliance hosted the 12th Kids' World International Festival Nov. 19-22 at the Tulsa Expo Square Exchange Center in Tulsa. The free event educated children about cultures from around the world including local tribes.

TGA started KWIF in 1993 and holds it every two years.

According to TGA President and Chief Executive Officer Becky Collins, more than 40 cultures and nations are represented at the event.

"We have a lot of different groups that are representing more of an international aspect in general," said Collins. "For instance, Northeastern State University decided to focus on two things: One is Austria, but they are also focusing on robotics because that is one of the fields we need more Americans to study."

Children that attended received a passport and were able to get the passport stamped from the country or nation.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Cultural Preservation Department had a booth that focused on Mvskoke traditional foods.

There were displays featuring the Mvskoke words of the wild game and photos of foods eaten in the past. There were also pecans, hickory nuts and gourd dippers that the children could touch.

CP Office Clerk John Johnson said the department chose to feature Mvskoke food because it is easy for people to relate to it.

"We just wanted to have something that was well thought out," Johnson said.

CP gave out educational packets to teachers that were comprised of an activity booklet and a booklet describing notable tribal members, such as Menawa and Alexander Posey. The packet also included maps of the MCN jurisdiction and a brief history of the tribe.

Perry Elementary PTA member April Lackey attended with a group of children.

"There is a lot of stuff," Lackey said. "They are learning here [at the Cultural Preservation booth] and asking and playing with stuff."

It seemed the most popular items at the CP booth were the free bear claw bead necklaces.

Collins said 8,400 children preregistered for the event and that she appreciated MCN and other Nations for participating.

"We are reaching kids in 12 counties, 30 school districts," Collins said. "We always get surveys and this [tribal Nations] area is always at the top of the list for the most favorite place to visit."

Collins said that TGA offers a free activity curriculum book that meets Oklahoma academic standards on the TGA website: www.tulsaglobalalliance.org.

MCN partners with Make-A-Wish

Nation helps make wishes come true

Chelsie Rich/*Project Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Office of Public Relations partnered with Make-A-Wish Oklahoma to help raise money to grant wishes for two Muscogee (Creek) children.

"Make-A-Wish Oklahoma grants wishes to Oklahoma children who have been diagnosed with a life threating illness to bring them hope, strength and joy at a time in their life when their facing some pretty tough struggles and need some happiness," said Jane Rohweder, MAW OK Director of Development.

MCN PR met with MAW OK to discuss how the Nation could help raise and donate money to make the wishes of Muscogee (Creek) citizens Jaden and Charilee come true.

"Creek Nation has committed to help raise funds in support of wishes that we are going to be granting to a couple of children who belong to the Creek Nation," Rohweder said.

Jaden is a four-year-old boy who has been diagnosed cerebral palsy and his wish is to see the ocean.

Charilee is a three-year-old girl who has been diagnosed leukemia and her wish is to go to Disney World.

"This is one of our own. This is a time we can help… every cent that we raise goes toward them," said LuAnn Bear, MCN PR Project Specialist.

MCN PR sold chances to win a pair of tickets to the University of Tulsa Golden Hurricanes football game.

All proceeds went to MAW OK directly for Jaden and Charilee.

"It takes approximately $7,500 for a wish. That's just an average for each wish," Bear said.

MCN plans to continue to have fundraisers for Jaden and Charilee.

"We're going to work all the way from this point just trying to make as much money as we can to donate to them," Bear said.

Jaden and Charilee's wishes are set to be granted in the late spring or summer of 2015.

"We're always so appreciative to our partners…all of our wishes and the expense of our wishes happen through the generosity of people like the Creek Nation," Rohweder said.

For more information on the Make-A-Wish Foundation go online to: www.wish.org.

Council helps citizens with Turkey Giveaway

Legislature hands out 130 turkeys for holidays

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council held their 'Annual Turkey Giveaway' Nov. 25 at the MCN Mound Building.

According to MCNNC Legislative Clerk April Lindsay, this tradition started a few years ago when the Council recognized that some citizens were not going to be able to have a Thanksgiving holiday.

"This was started when some of the councilmen and employees of the National Council saw the need to help the citizens in some way during the holiday season," Lindsay said.

Over 130 turkeys were given away to citizens. The Council representatives go to the communities in their respective districts to see who needs a turkey for their family.

"We also have other departments that have helped us with names of citizens," Lindsay said. "TANF and Social Services were a big help in providing us with names."

One Muscogee (Creek) family of five was a recipient of the holiday turkey.

"I was not sure if we were going to have a Thanksgiving this year," they said. "That is what I was worried about. Thanks to the National Council, my family will have a Thanksgiving. We can't thank them enough."

MCNNC Speaker Thomas Yahola was more than joyous to see the citizens that have been helped through this drive.

"We want to make sure everyone has a great Thanksgiving," Yahola said. "It is always a gratifying feeling when you can help contribute in some way. Seeing the smiles on the people's faces lets you know that you are doing a great thing."

Smoke Out seminar promotes smoking cessation



MNN/Jessica McBride

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger spoke to attendees Nov. 25, at the MCN Great American Smoke Out Seminar at the MCN Mound Building in Okmulgee.

Tiger shares personal habit testimony

Jessica McBride/*Editorial Assistant*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — "Smoking is pretty prevalent in my family. My father smoked, and smoked a lot in fact," Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger said. "And unfortunately we lost him to emphysema."

Tiger explained that he started smoking because of a nervous habit while playing fast pitch softball.

"I'd see other guys smoking and I thought that was the thing to do," Tiger said.

Around six years ago, Tiger lost his oldest brother. He said that smoking contributed to his death.

Tiger said he started to smoke and then quit around six times before he never lit up again.

"Each time that I quit I felt better… Each time that I quit, others around me felt better too," Tiger said. "But I think I quit because I could remember seeing my father struggle to gasp for air in his lungs."

Tiger served as the motivational speaker for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Great American Smoke Out Seminar hosted Nov. 25 by the MCN Tobacco Prevention Program at the MCN Mound Building in Okmulgee.

The event aimed to provide smoking cessation tips and encouragement for smokers to quit, and broadcast information to non-smokers to help motivate their loved ones to stop.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, 21.8 percent of American Indians in the U.S. were currently cigarette smokers in 2012.

Tiger also quit smoking due to another common health problem in Indian Country.

"Another reason I quit smoking is because I was diagnosed with diabetes," Tiger said. "And diabetes and smoking does not mix."

TPP Manager Carla Feathers reported at the event that 34 percent of Muscogee (Creek) adults are current smokers.

"As Indian people, tobacco has a strong history with us. But it was the real thing. There wasn't any additives," Tiger said. "But today it's a drug."

The motto of TPP is to eliminate commercial tobacco abuse and educate individuals about the difference between traditional tobacco use and commercial tobacco abuse.

For more information about the MCN Tobacco Prevention Program, call: 855-623-1189 or 918-623-1189.

For more information about the MCN Substance Abuse Services, call: 918-758-1910.



Yahola pursues dreams, modifies way of life



Submission
Muscogee (Creek) citizen Joseph Yahola during his first year of competitive football at Oklahoma School for the Deaf.

Citizen sees opportunity, not handicap

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

HENRYETTA, Okla. — What are the things that you hear in the morning? Alarm going off, birds singing and cars driving by?

Fifteen-year-old Muscogee (Creek) citizen Joseph Yahola has a different experience. Yahola's family learned after he was born that he would deal with hearing loss over time. He is not classified as deaf but hard-of-hearing.

"Even at a young age Joseph could not hear," Yahola's uncle Russell Jacobs said. "He learned how to listen with a doctor's stethoscope."

Think about that. What would it be like?

Yahola, refuses to let it be a crutch. He said he has to learn how to adapt because he knows the world will not slow down or stop because he is hard-of-hearing.

"I learned how to read lips," Yahola said. "That has helped me a lot."

Yahola said he learned how to read lips when he was taught sign language. He started when he was in third grade.

"When my teachers said a word in sign language, they would move their lips and that is how I taught myself to read people's lips," Yahola said. "Since everyone does not know sign language, this does help me and the person that I am speaking too."

While Yahola has a better understanding of reading lips, he is constantly learning sign language.

"I am learning just as much as the person next to me," Yahola said. "I was real good but I lost some of the skills and I am getting better at it."

Yahola is a freshman in high school and attends the Oklahoma School for the Deaf located in Sulphur, Okla. Like other teenagers, Yahola has an interest in extra-curricular sports such as football and basketball.

In football, Yahola plays kicker, defensive end and guard. With basketball, he plays shooting guard but he wants to be point guard.

"Football is great," Yahola said. "We run a lot and I get to tackle people. Basketball is the same thing. I am trying real hard to be point guard for our team."

This is Yahola's first time playing football for a school. He has learned a lot from his coaches and from watching other players.

"My coaches have helped a lot," Yahola said. "I had to learn a lot because this is my first year playing. I watched the other players from other teams at my position to see how they played too and that helped me out."

High school football coach Tommy Varner spoke about Yahola. According to Varner, Yahola has grown to be a mentor to younger students.

"At times, Joseph was looking up to our past players," Varner said in a written statement. "Now the shoe is on the other foot. I have younger kids looking up to Joseph and they want to be just like him when they get a little bit older."

Both Yahola and Varner feel that being deaf or hard-of-hearing is not a handicap. There are other ways that they have to communicate but that is it. It does not hold them back from how they want to live their lives.

"Being deaf is not a handicap in our eyes," Varner said. "I am deaf myself. I never viewed it as a handicap growing up. There are barriers with communication, that's it."

Varner reminds all of his students that they are no different than anyone else.

"We teach our deaf athletes that they are not any different than the hearing kids at the public schools," Varner said. "They have a heart beating the same as ours. We can do anything we put our minds to but can't hear."

Yahola is not slowing down. He wants to keep trying out new things, getting good grades and playing the sports that he loves. He is not worried about being hard-of-hearing.

"I have my dreams," Yahola said. "I am not letting what I have stop me from getting my dreams. I am getting better at sign language and I can read lips and everyone can hear what I am saying. I feel that there is nothing wrong at all and no communication is broken."

Legacy

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

what all you did for other people. You have helped them.' But that's not what I went out there for. I was there to make a movie."

Hicks returned to Oklahoma in 2006.

"When I came back I was really depressed because I thought I had failed because I went out there with a big fanfare back in '79," Hicks said. "My goal was to make a movie in a theater. Here I come back and I haven't accomplished anything."

Hicks worked on small plays periodically. He entered a screenplay contest at a local theater. The screenplay did not win but it would evolve into, 'The Dawes Commission' play.

'The Dawes Commission' is a production featuring Native actors in the Mvskoke language about the federal government's attempt to convince a Muscogee (Creek) family to accept allotment.

Hicks accomplished his goal of making a movie when the film adaptation wrapped postproduction in October.

Hicks said on multiple occasions that he made the movie to give to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

"I want to do something for the Nation and I thought this would be one way to do it," Hicks said. "I hired a whole bunch of Creeks and other tribes were represented too. That's what I wanted to be able to say, 'We can do this stuff.' "





Rock Creek - Bingo - Table Games - Electronic Games

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OBITUARIES

EDITH DUNSON

OKEMAH, Okla. — Edith 'Edie' Marie Dunson entered into eternal life Oct. 6, 2014 at age 75. She was born April 27, 1939 to Sekice and Martha Robison in Okemah.

Edith was raised and went to school in Okemah and married Louis 'Louie' Dunson June 26, 1958.

Once married, they lived a short time in Okemah before moving to Brush, Colo., where they lived for 10 years.

In September 1969, they moved to Greeley, Colo. They have called Greeley home for the past 45 years. She worked for the telephone company in Brush, transferring her job to Greeley.

After a 32-year career with the phone company, Edith retired from U.S. West. Edith and Louis raised their two sons in Greeley.

While living and working there, she developed a love for the game of golf. Edith and Louis could be found many days of the week at the golf course playing.

Louis taught Edie how to play and she became a very accomplished golfer. She won the ladies club championship six times. She won three at Highland Hills Golf Course and three at Boomerang Links.

She was a three-time Match Play Champion at both courses as well as a three-time ladies senior champion.

The game of golf took them to surrounding states where Edith won a couple of inter-tribal tournaments.

She enjoyed playing with her lady friends but found playing with Louis and his friends a fun challenge.

She not only played from the same tee markers as the men but could hit the ball as far as most of them and beat them on many occasions. She had five hole-in-ones throughout her years of playing. Two were in tournaments.

Edith was a big fan of Oklahoma football. She watched the OU Sooners every Saturday they were on television, making a few games in person over the years. She was also a Denver Broncos fan.

If she wasn't on the golf course on a Sunday afternoon, she was home watching them. Not only did she love the game of golf and watching sports, she loved to sew, making many quilts as gifts for various family members and friends.

The true love of Edith's was her husband, Louis, her sons and grandchildren. Each one held a special place in her heart. If she wasn't doing something with them, she was doing something for them. She truly enjoyed her retirement years. Between family and her hobbies, Edith's life was lived to the fullest.

Edith is survived by: her husband of 56 years, Louis; sons, Bill and Patrick; grandchildren, Matthew (Lindsay), Danielle (Steve), Keegan and great-grandchildren, Ayden and Remi. A third great-grandchild is due to make his entrance into the world in November. She is also survived by a host of nieces and nephews.

Edith is preceded in death by: her parents, Sekice and Martha; sisters, Irene and Kiddie Ruth and brothers, Kenneth and Samuel.

A funeral service was held Oct. 13, 2014 at the Greenleaf Indian Baptist Church. Burial immediately followed at the Greenleaf Cemetery.

ANNA ROSE HARJO



TULSA, Okla. — Anna Rose Harjo, a resident of Okmulgee, passed away Oct. 16, 2014 in Tulsa at the age of 71. She was born March 17, 1943 in Henryetta, Okla., to Oscar Harjo and Mollie Faloppa-Harjo.

She was preceded in death by: her parents; daughter, Tammy Harjo; brothers, Art Fields, Buster Bear Sr., Claudie Fields and by her sister, Alice Lewis.

Anna is survived by her: children, Nancy Harjo-Watson and husband Kevin of Broken Arrow, Okla., and Jason H. Harjo and wife Tabitha of Henryetta; one grandchild she raised, Mike Harjo as her own son; her other grandchildren, Jasmine Gutierez, Cordell Frye, Mollie Frye, Katcv Watson, Chitto Frye, Garrett Harjo, Chelsea Harjo and Hagin Harjo; great-grandchild, Nokos Harjo; sister, Liza Harjo and husband Frank of Konowa, Okla., as well as a host of other relatives and friends.

Pallbearers are: Buster Bear Jr., Alvin Bucktrot, Sundy Lewis, George Fields, Eddie Bear, Wayland Gray, Kevin Watson and Rance Fogle.

A wake service was scheduled for Oct. 19 at Hickory Ground #1 Church south of Henryetta.

A Funeral Service was scheduled for Oct. 20 at Hickory Ground #1 Church south of Henryetta with Rev. Mitchel Taylor and Rev. Walter Taylor Jr. officiating. Interment followed at Harjo Family Cemetery under the direction of Integrity Funeral Service.

BILLY JOE JACKSON



WELEETKA, Okla. — Billy Joe 'B.J.' Jackson was born Feb. 3, 1937 in Hanna, Okla., to Timmie Okchumpulla Jackson and Luella Mae Red Jackson and passed from this life Oct. 16, 2014 at his home in Weleetka at the age of 77.

Billy Joe was raised in the Hanna area and attended Hanna School. He was a member of the Wind Clan and the Hillabee Tribal Town. As a young man, he entered the U.S. Army and honorably served his country.

Following his discharge, he relocated to Oklahoma City where he began a career as a mechanic and a truck driver. Due to failing health, he was forced into early retirement and moved to Weleetka around 1984. He enjoyed fishing and loved creating shell shakers for Native ceremonial dances.

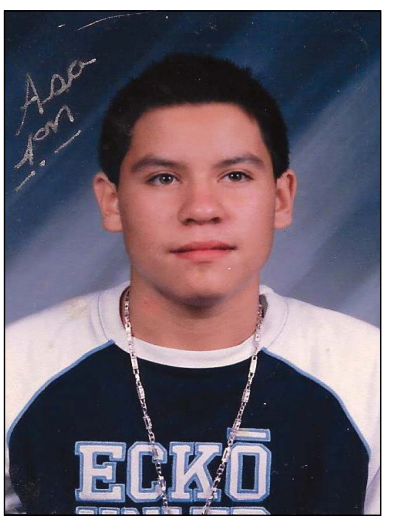
He was preceded in death by his: parents and his siblings Thomas Jackson, Betty Ann Hogshooter, Lorene Buckley, Joe Sunday Jackson, Tecumseh Jackson, half brother Willie Jackson and half sister Judy Walker.

Survivors include his: children, Vickie Jo Thorpe and husband Jim of San Diego, Calif., and Debra and Timothy Jackson; brothers, Louie Jackson of Muskogee, Okla., Jackie Jackson and wife Diane of Okmulgee, Okla., Andrew Jackson and wife Karen of Oklahoma City, Robert Jackson and wife Wilma of Okmulgee and Jake Jackson and wife Molline of Eufaula, Okla.; sister Susanna Marshall of Weleetka; several grandchildren, including special granddaughters T.L. and Jamie along with nieces, nephews, other relatives and many friends.

Viewing and visitation were held at the Wetumka location featuring a song service.

The casket was moved to the Hanna Indian Community Center where the service was officiated by his brother Rev. Jake Jackson. Interment was held the Jackson-Gouge-Harjo Family Cemetery under the direction of Williamson-Spradlin Funeral Home of Weleetka and Wetumka.

ASA JON LEYBAS



OKMULGEE, Okla. — Asa Jon Leybas, a resident of Okmulgee, passed away Oct. 25, 2014 at the age of 25. He was born April 9, 1989 to Johnny Lee Leybas and Nakina Lahoma Taryole-Leybas in Okmulgee.

He attended Okmulgee Schools and was a member of the Eram Baptist Church in Eram, Okla. He attended the Second Baptist Church in Okmulgee where he was a Royal Ambassador for six years.

Asa enjoyed skateboarding and riding his bike when he was younger and he loved working with his father but most of all he loved spending time with his children.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Bennie and Lillian Leybas.

Survivors include his: parents, Rev. Johnny and Kina Leybas; wife, Meghan Leybas; children, Asaiah Jon Leybas and Miyana Kay Leybas; brother, Erick Postoak; grandmother, Alice Freeman; nephews, River, Johnathan and Julius Postoak; niece, Mia M. Postoak and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and other relatives and friends.

Visitation was set for Oct. 29 and the Wake Service that evening, both at the Jackson Funeral Home Chapel in Okmulgee.

Funeral services were set for Oct. 30 at the Second Baptist Church in Okmulgee with Rev. DuWayne Colvin officiating. Burial followed the service at the Arbeka Indian Baptist Cemetery under the direction of the Jackson Funeral Home and Crematory in Okmulgee.

Pallbearers are: Ayo Factor, Levon Factor, Joshua Burnside, Richard McKay, Franklin Barnett, Jr., Eli Leybas, Kenny Ray Leybas and Patrick Johnson.

Honorary Pallbearers are: Barney Ingram, Waddie Leybas, Mike Leybas, Daniel Leybas, Daniel Kaler, Ronnie Burnside, Samuel Roberts and Ivan Bear.

Friends may send their condolences to: www.jacksonfhand-crematory.com.

JENNA PRINCE

EUFAULA, Okla. — Jenna was born Aug. 12, 1985 in Tahlequah, Okla., to Jimmy Jr. and Jackie Sue Francis- Walker. She attended Eufaula Public Schools and worked as a clerk at the Sinclair Convenient Store and also at Boom A Rang Diner and Taco Mayo. She was a member of the Faith Community Church in Whitefield, Okla.

Survivors include her: father, Jimmy Walker, Jr. of the home; sons, Payton and Dalton Prince, of the home; brothers, James Walker of Wewoka, Okla., and Jeffery Walker, of Eufaula, Okla., and sisters, Louana Christy of Eufaula and Jamie Sue Walker of Longtown, Okla.

She is preceded in death by her mother, Jackie Sue Walker.

CHRISTIAN SHOCKLEY



CLAREMORE, Okla. — Christian Shockley was born Oct. 9, 1989 to Ronald and Angela Factor Shockley in Claremore and went to heaven Oct. 8, 2014.

Christian is survived by her: parents; sons, Matthew, Ray and Keiven; brothers Ronald Shockley Jr. (and Carrie) of Glenpool, Okla., Hunter and Stormy Ross of Bixby, Okla., Talon and Theron Shockley of Kellyville, Okla.; maternal grandparents, Kenneth and Sheila Factor of Stroud, Okla.; paternal grandfather, Mike Shockley of Ked Key, Ind.; uncles, Elgin Kenneth Factor of Tulsa, Okla.; great-aunt, Christina (and Ed) Screechowl of Stroud, Okla.; great-uncles, Michael Bigpond of Bristow, Okla., Roy (and Marilyn) Bigpond of Bristow; Bobby (and Lavern) Bigpond of Houston, Texas; nieces, Tessa and Hailey; nephews, Michael and Jordan along with numerous relatives and many, many friends.

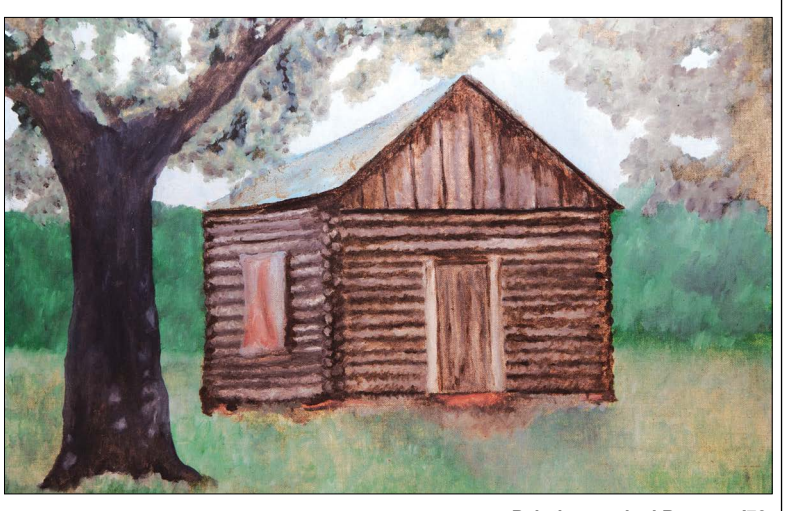
She is preceded in death by: grandmother, Nancy Shockley; maternal great-grandparents Wiley and Ollie Welch Bigpond; paternal great-grandparents Kenneth and Josephine Cook Factor; great-aunts, Bonnie Jean Hale and Richenda Factor; great-uncles, Wallace Bigpond, Wiley Bigpond Jr., Savoy Bigpond, Samuel Bigpond and Ricky Shane Harjo.

A memorial service for Christian was held Oct. 14 at Smith Funeral Chapel in Sapulpa, Okla., with the Rev. Judy Aaron officiating.



Muscogee (Creek) Nation Community and Tribal Events

Christmas memories from Christmas past



Painting marked Burgess '72

Pictured is a painting of the original one-room log cabin Tulmochussee Indian Baptist Church in Lamar, Okla., used until the 1980s.

A recollection of youth

Amanda Rutland/*Media Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — One of my favorite things about Christmas is the songs. I like the classics like Bing Crosby's 'Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas,' but I also love 'Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer.'

Christmas for a lot people means being with family and friends.

Some of my favorite Christmas memories were of being a child in the early '90s and experiencing Christmas at Tulmochussee Indian Baptist, south of Lamar, Okla.

The church was founded sometime around the Civil War. In the old days, when a church grew too big, it would divide off and form a new church. Tulmochussee came from Middle Creek #1 and was considered a sister church.

When my father David Mitchell was the pastor, Christmas was always big.

We would purchase gifts to give out: toys for the children, gloves and mugs for the men and maybe scarves or kitchen stuff for the ladies. Everyone received a gift sack with apples, oranges and candy. We gave out sacks because Dad said that's what they used to do when he was small.

Attendance on those days was high and depending on the year, more than 100 people would pack into the little white church house. Although, I don't know how we all fit. My family would be there from 8 a.m. until well after dark.

The church would usually be cold during the morning service. Dad would turn the only propane stove up really high because he said he didn't want the elders to be cold.

The deacons seated the elder ladies on the wooden handmade pews near the front of the church next to the stove. Men sat on the left and women on the right. My sister and I sat in the back of the church.

If we got in trouble, Dad would point or snap his fingers from behind the pulpit. We knew we were in trouble then, and would sit quiet with wide eyes.

I looked forward to playing with my cousins that I did not see often.

After the morning service, there was a large dinner with all the best stecate food: salt meat, blue bread and sofke. I liked it when my Aunt Linda would make monkey bread. Then my uncle Bunny would tease me that I was going to turn into a monkey.

He was always teasing us. His favorite was to sing a song he made up about me called "Kvco Ele Fumpe" or Kvco—the nickname my dad called me—stinky feet.

The windows of the fellowship hall were completely fogged over because of the heat from the stoves. My sister and I drew shapes in the fog when we were not busy.

We were in charge of getting water from the outside faucet because there wasn't running water in the fellowship hall and then we manned the drink table.

You had three options: sweet and unsweet tea or Kool-Aid, which was usually red.

" 'Kvco Ele Fumpe' or Kvco — the nickname my dad called me — stinky feet."

- Amanda Rutland

When it was time to eat, one of us would yell out the door in the loudest voice we could muster, "HOMPAKS CE (Everybody come eat)!"

A deacon or visiting pastor would say the blessing and once all the visitors and men had a plate then we would get ours. That was the way we were taught. The adults would visit and Dad told stories to make everyone laugh.

I loved that we took time to enjoy each other. We were not in a hurry to get somewhere else.

After the meal, the deacon visiting that day blew the horn and we went inside the church for afternoon service. On these days, we sang songs in Mvskoke and Christmas songs in English.

My Aunt Senora (well my aunt the stecate way she was really Dad's first cousin and the closet he ever had to a sister) lead the English songs from the old teal hymnals donated from some big church in Holdenville, Okla.

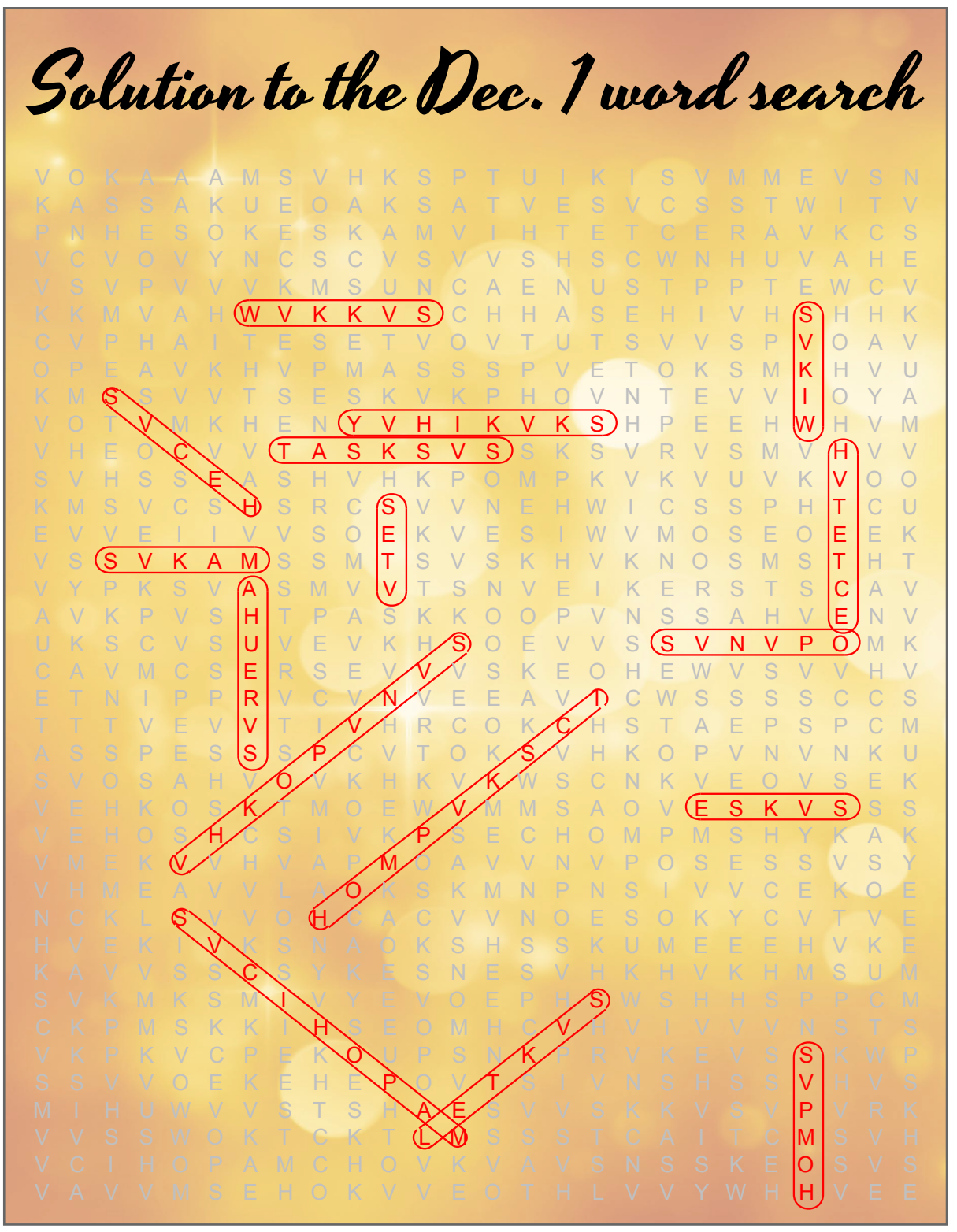
If we had someone to play Santa Claus, they handed out the gifts. If not, my sister and I would.

I miss those times. Everyone had a smile and a good time. Most of the people that attended have passed on now. We will meet again.

What are some of your favorite Christmas memories?

Mvto!

Solution to the Dec. 1 word search



Christmas program set for Dec. 20

HOLDENVILLE, Okla. — Middle Creek #2 Church has set a Christmas program for Dec. 20 starting at 6 p.m.

Gifts and fruit will be passed out and the event is open to the public.

TCIC election set for Dec. 23

TULSA, Okla. — The Tulsa Creek Indian Community has set an election Dec. 23 from 6-8 p.m. for the treasurer position.

The deadline for letters of intent and the $20 payment for background checks is Dec. 12 by 5 p.m. For more information contact Roman Powell at: 918-695-2781.

Native beauty pageant/talent show set for Jan. 30-31, 2015

GLENPOOL, Okla. — A Native beauty pageant is set for Jan. 30, 2015 and a Native talent show is set for Jan. 31, 2015 at the Glenpool Conference Center in Glenpool.

For more information visit: www.rosieeliteexpos.com or call: 918-857-6630.

List of upcoming MNN deadlines

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The following is a list of upcoming deadlines to submit content for the 'Muscogee Nation News.'

Jan. 1, 2015 - Dec. 19

Jan. 15, 2015 - Jan. 7, 2015

Feb. 1, 2015 - Jan. 23, 2015

Feb. 15, 2015 - Feb. 6, 2015

Editor

MCN Angel Tree promotes giving



MNN File Photo

Every angel adopted within first week

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Children and Family Services Administration hosted another Angel Tree event to help underprivileged children whose families receive CFSA assistance.

This is the 16th year CFSA has hosted the charity.

The Angel Tree started as a way to help provide gifts for the children.

"The Angel Tree gives back to the children who are in custody or out of their permanent home," CFSA Tribal Reunification Program Manager Beky Baker said. "It is a way for us to help bring Christmas to them so they can have that normality in their life."

This year, there were 95 angels on the tree and according to Baker, all 95 were adopted.

"All 95 angels were picked up and taken within the first week of our Angel Tree," Baker said. "In the time that I have been here, this has been the quickest we have had all of our angels picked up."

This year, organizations such as American Airlines Federal Credit Union Branch in Broken Arrow, Okla., adopted angles along with tribal members and MCN community centers. MCN first lady Frances Tiger is one of the employees at AAFCU.

"One of the employees here, Yuliya, was asking about the Angel Tree," Tiger said. "She was very instrumental in rallying all of our co-workers here to take an angel from the tree."

Yuliya Bradley wanted to help when she heard about the Angel Tree.

"There are a lot of kids who are less fortunate and would love to have a Christmas," Bradley said. "I wish I could help all of them. So when we found out about this, we wanted to do what we can to help these children have a Christmas."

The AAFCU branch took 10 angels from the tree this year.

"We are fortunate to have what we have," Bradley said. "We want these kids to have a great Christmas too."

For more information about the Angel Tree or other CFSA programs, call: 918-732-7869 or toll free at: 1-800-482-1979.